The Flower of Evil

1

COMPLETE

Shuzo Oshimi

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The Flowers of Evil

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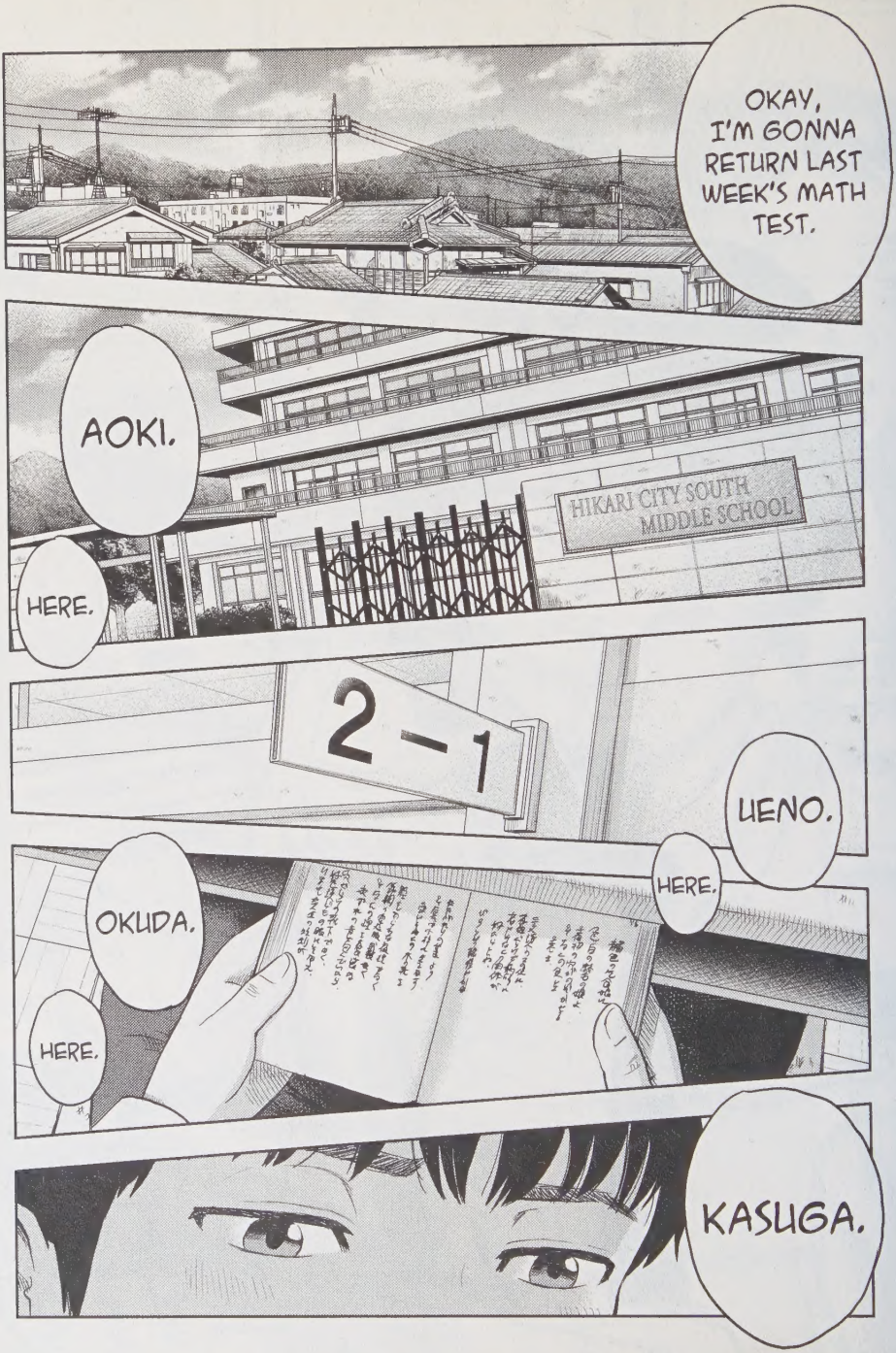
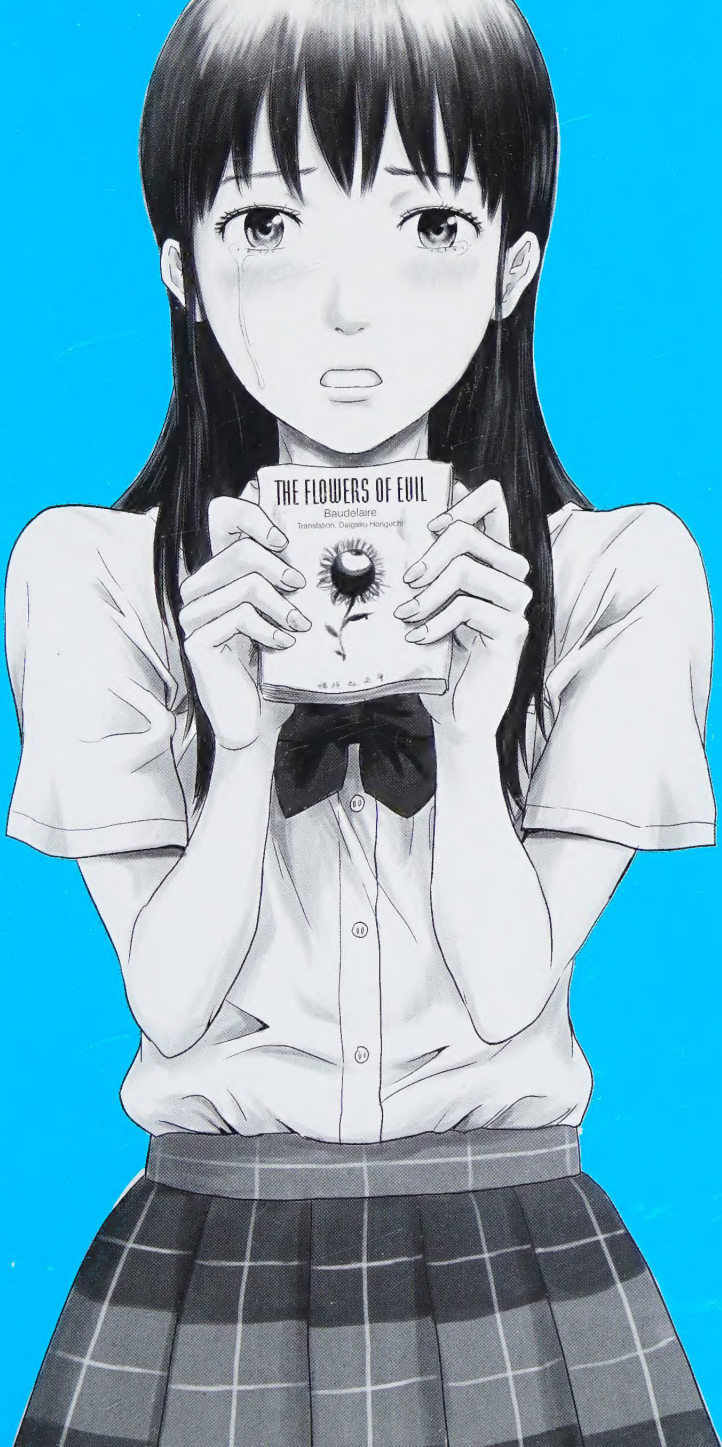
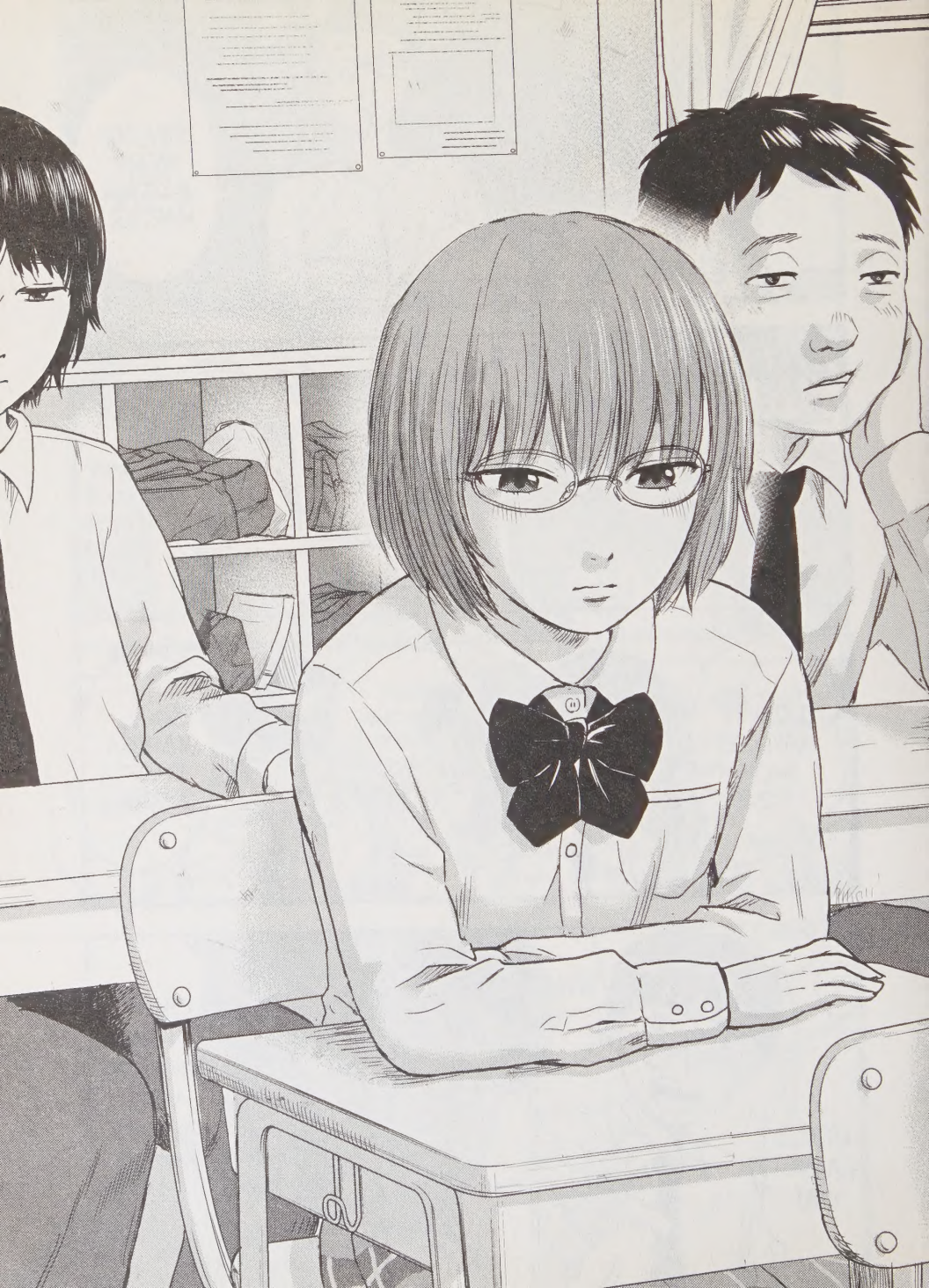
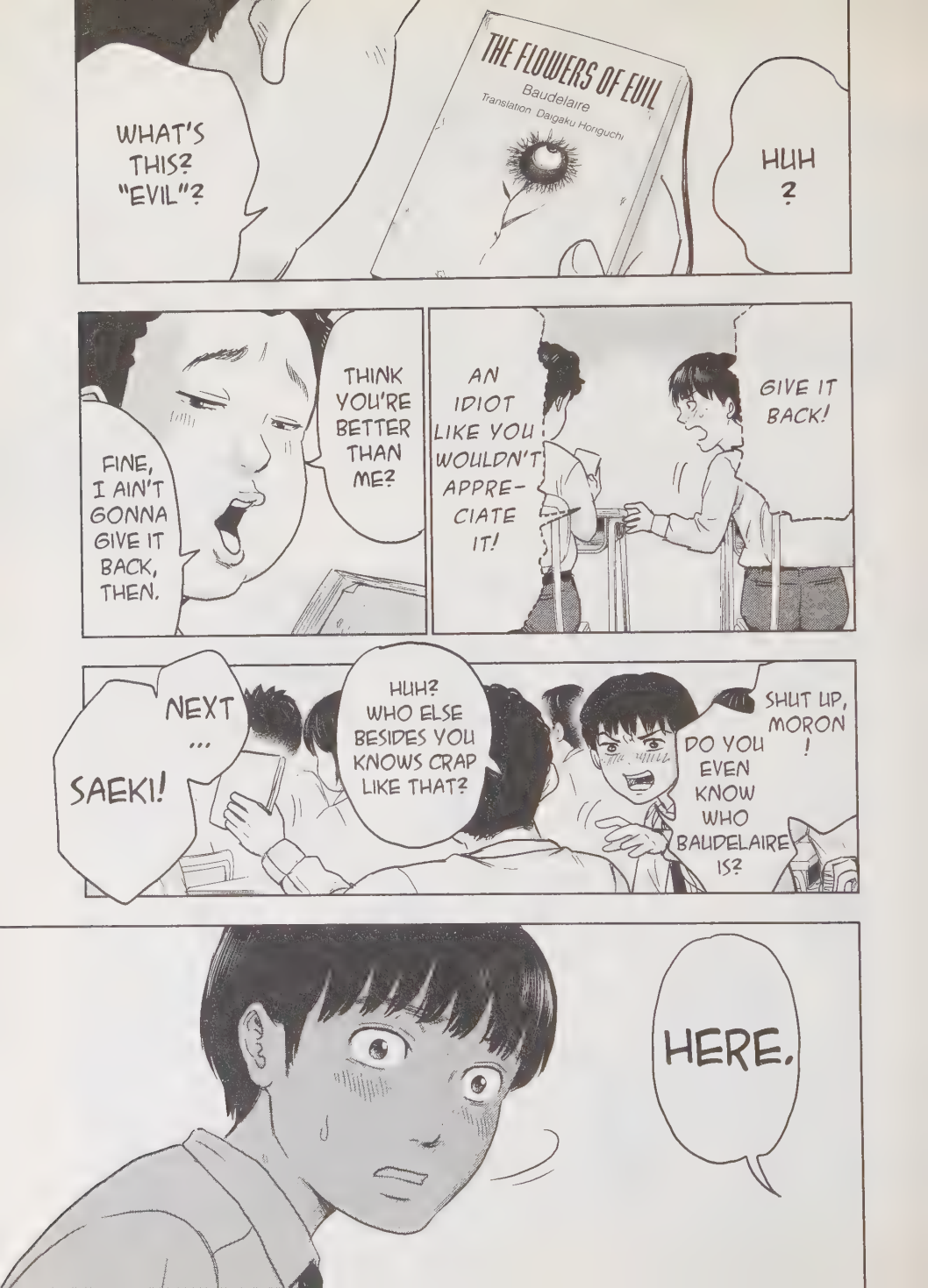
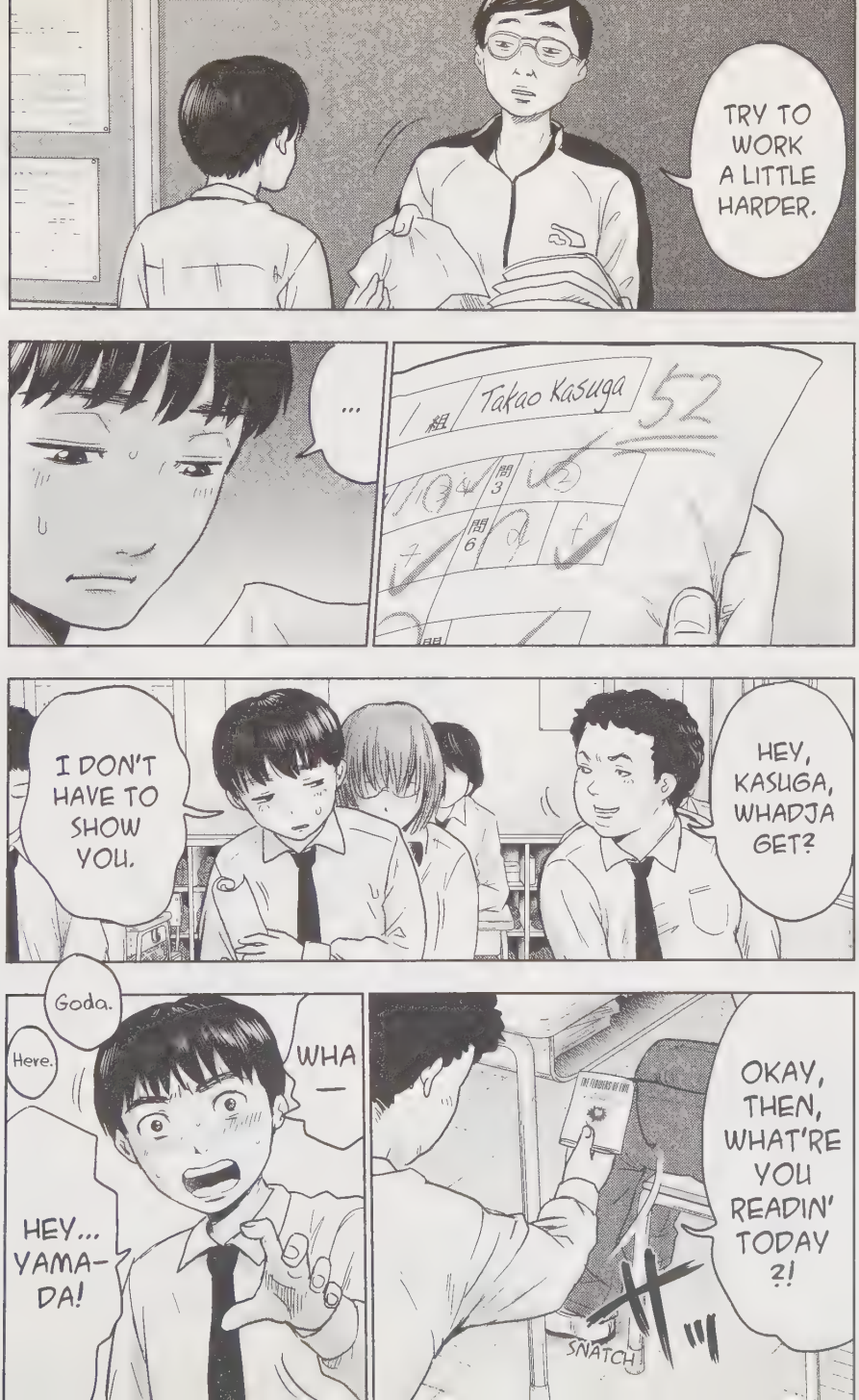

OKAY, I'M GONNA RETURN LAST WEEK'S MATH TEST.
AOKI.
HERE.
HIKARI CITY SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
2-1
UENO.
HERE.
OKUDA.
HERE.
KASUGA.

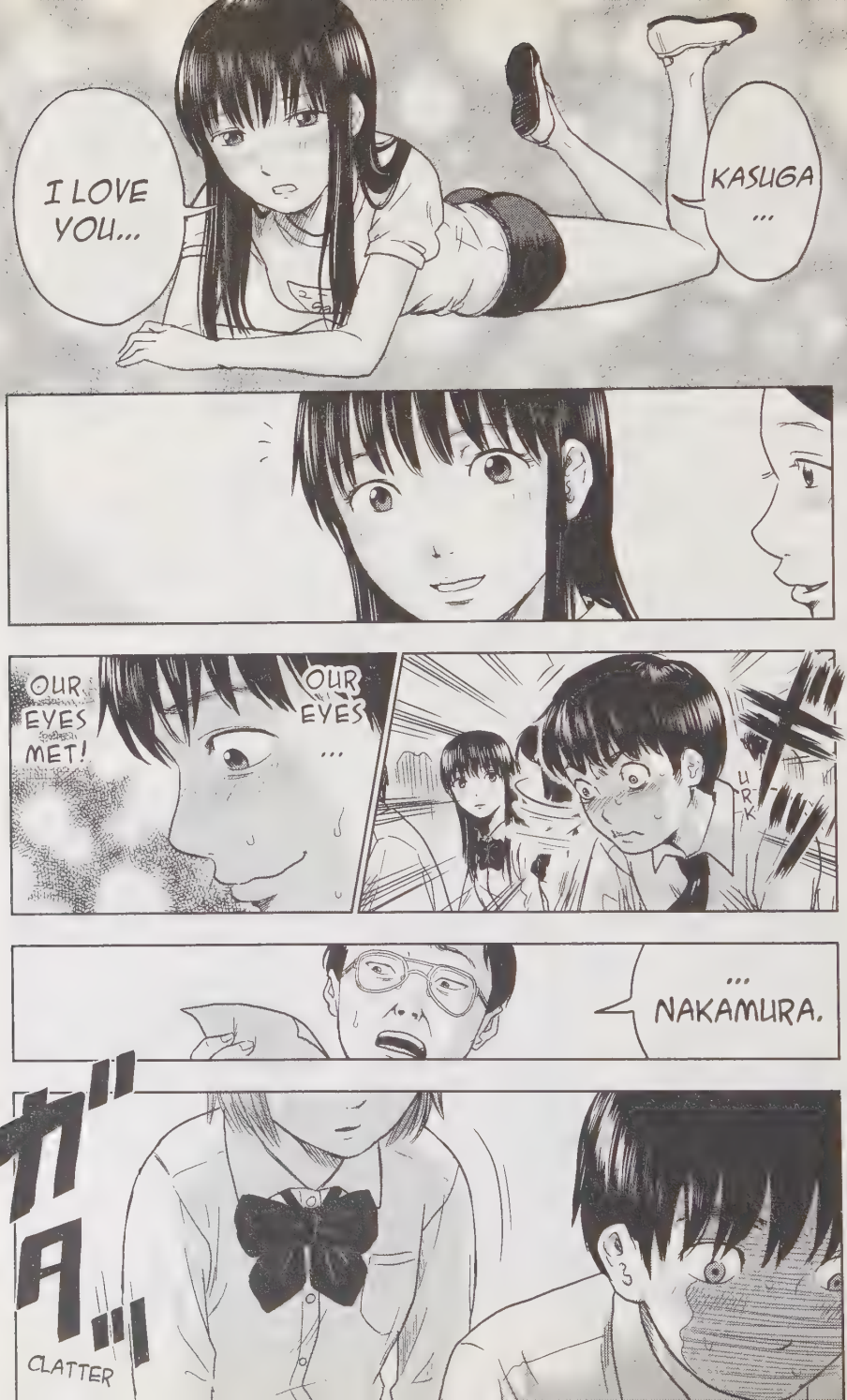

THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation, Daigaku Honguchi

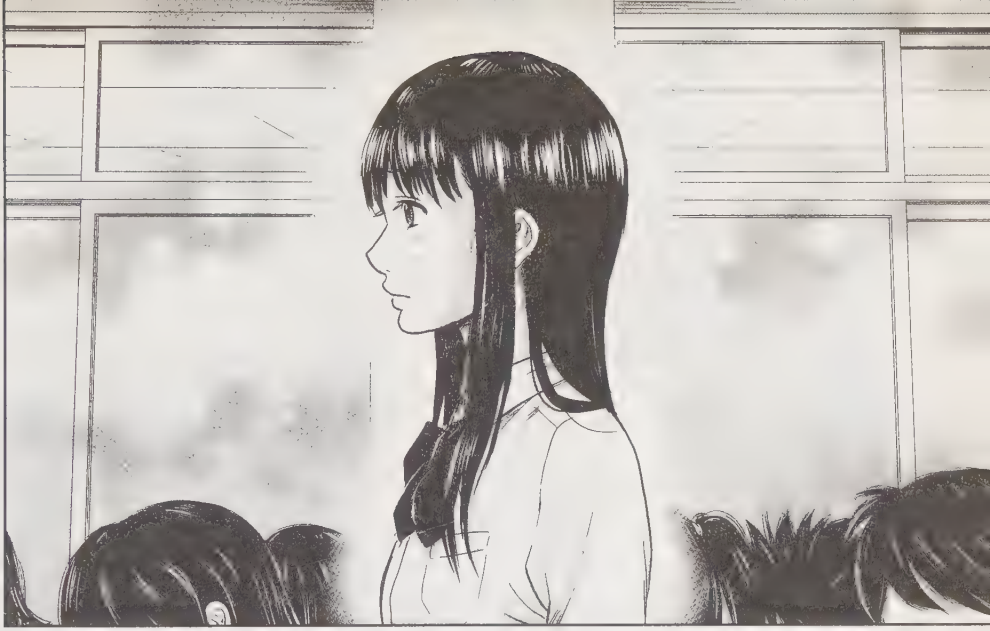


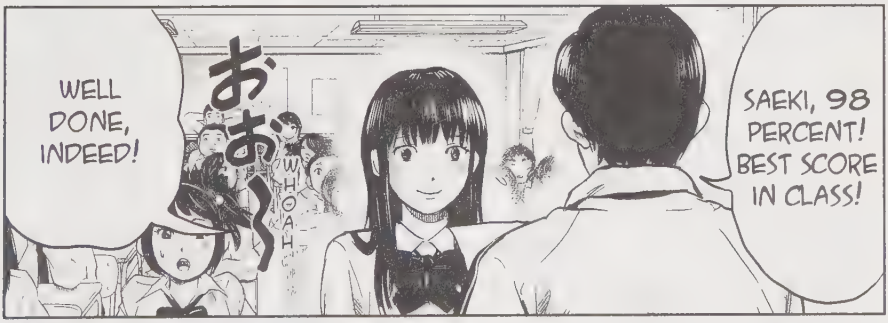
Chapter 1: The Flowers of Evil

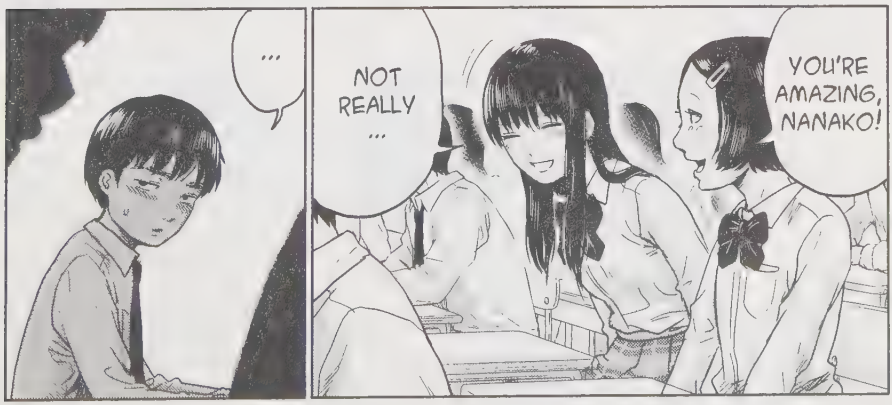

WHAT'S THIS? "EVIL"?
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation Daigaku Horiguchi
HUH ?
FINE, I AIN'T GONNA GIVE IT BACK, THEN.
THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME?
AN IDIOT LIKE YOU WOULDN'T APPRE-CIATE IT!
GIVE IT BACK!
NEXT ... SAEKI!
HUH? WHO ELSE BESIDES YOU KNOWS CRAP LIKE THAT?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO BAUDELAIRE IS?
SHUT UP, MORON !
HERE.

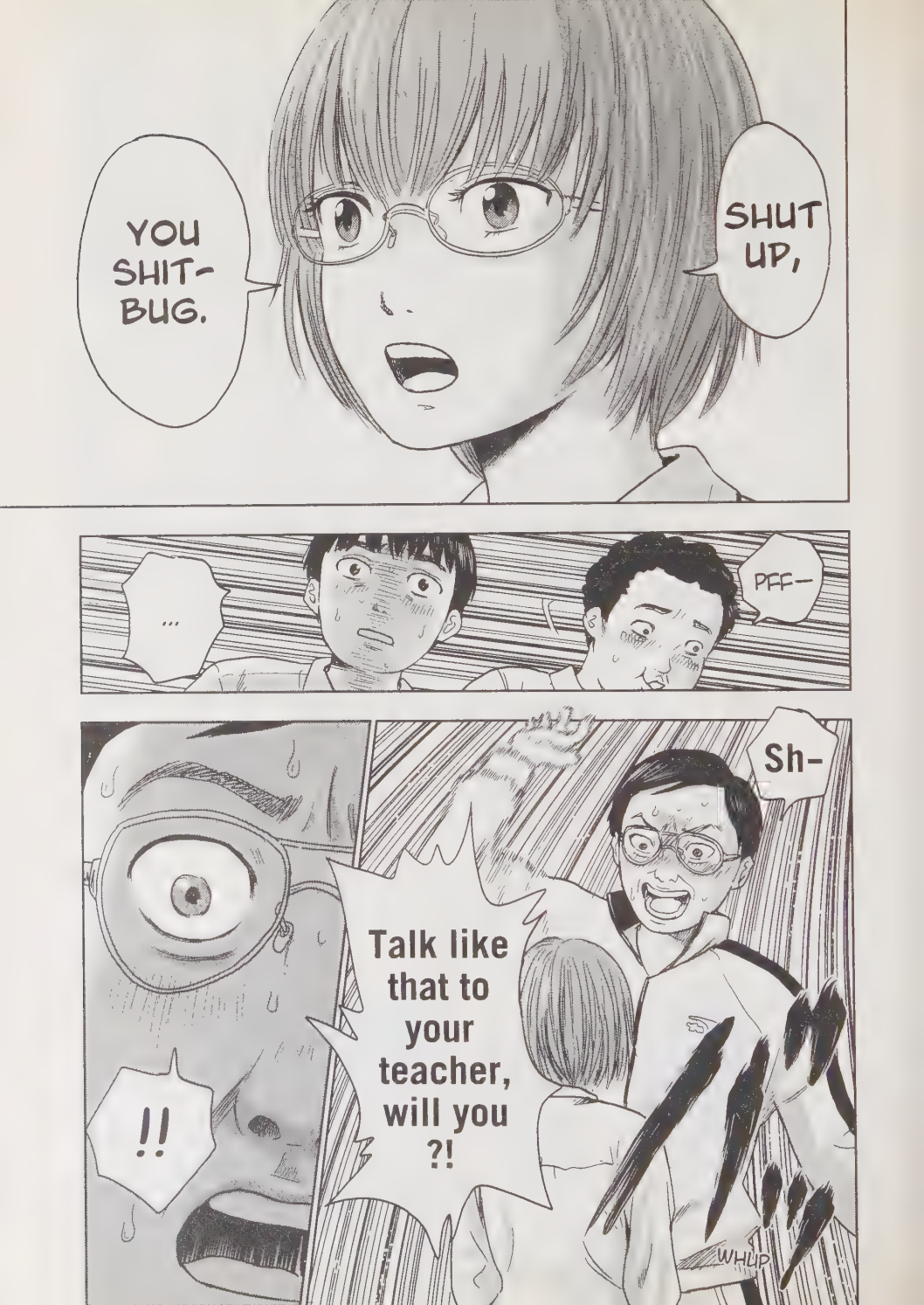

TRY TO WORK A LITTLE HARDER.
...
1組 Takao Kasuga 52
問3
問6
I DON'T HAVE TO SHOW YOU.
HEY, KASUGA, WHADJA GET?
Goda.
Here.
WHA—
HEY... YAMA-DA!
OKAY, THEN, WHAT'RE YOU READIN' TODAY?!
SNATCH

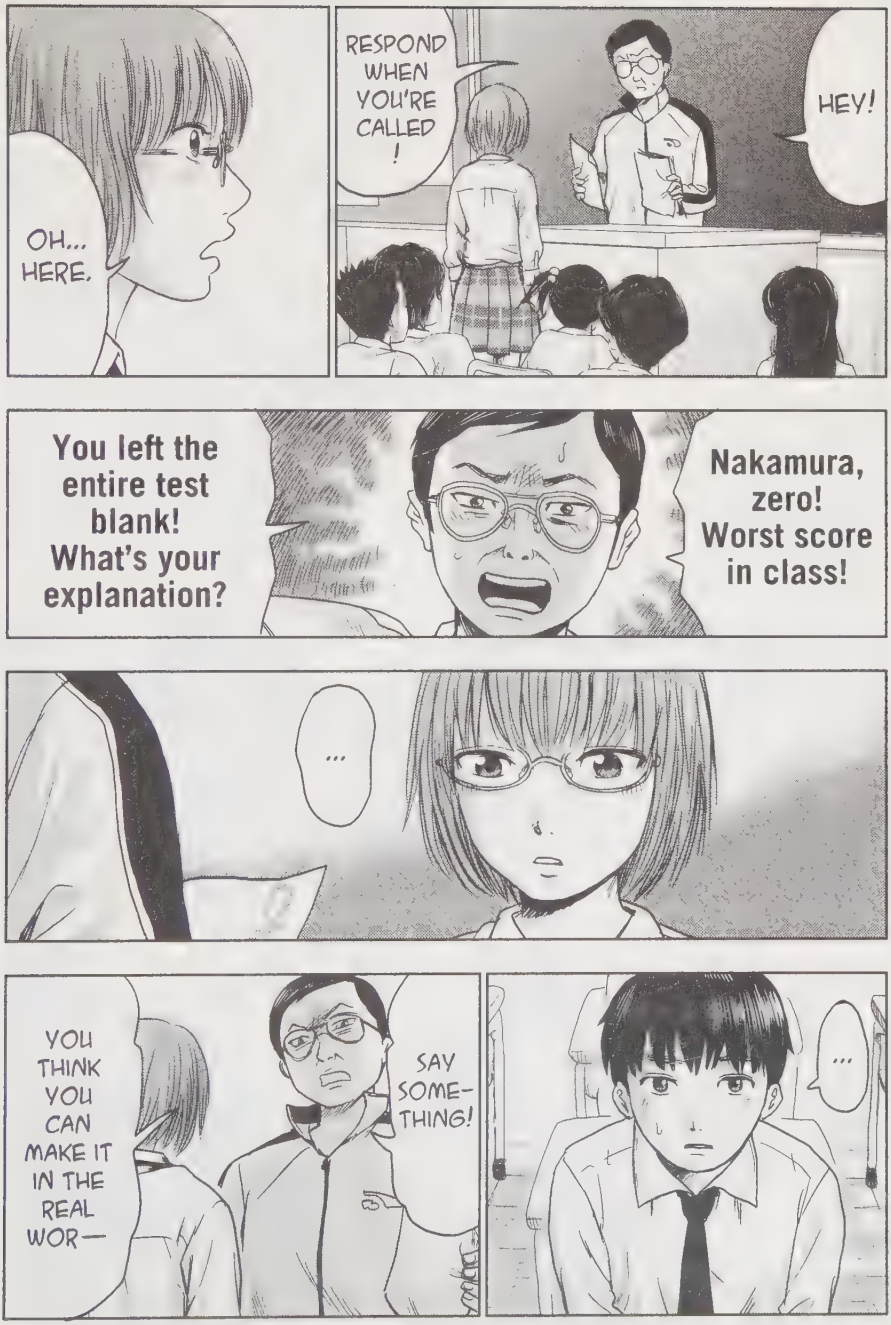

I LOVE YOU...
KASUGA ...
OUR EYES MET!
OUR EYES ...
URK
... NAKAMURA.
ガ"A...
CLATTER



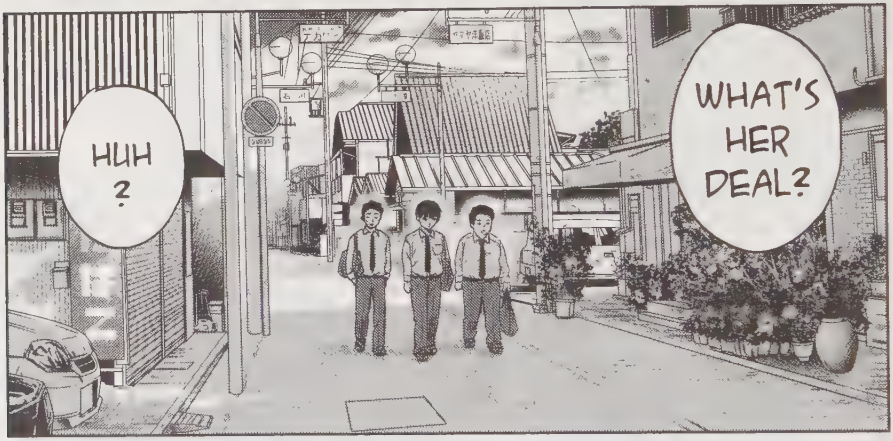

WELL DONE, INDEED!
おお～
WHOAH
SAEKI, 98 PERCENT! BEST SCORE IN CLASS!

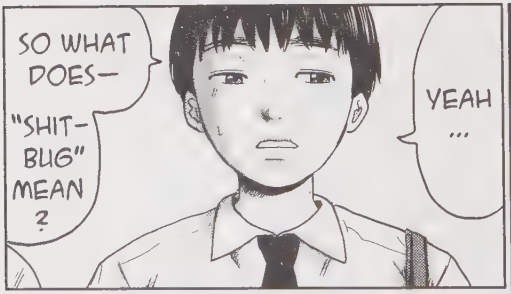

...
NOT REALLY ...
YOU'RE AMAZING, NANAKO!

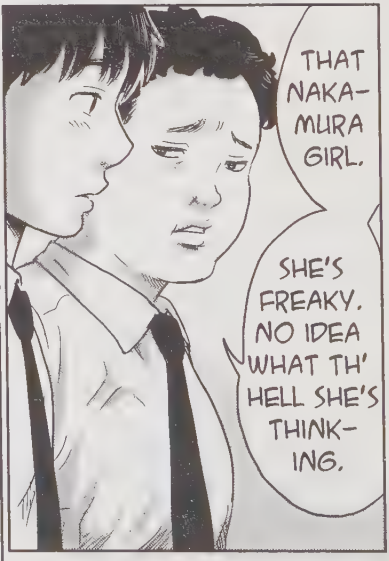

SHUT UP,
YOU SHIT-BUG.
...
PFF-
Sh-
Talk like that to your teacher, will you ?!
!!
WHIP

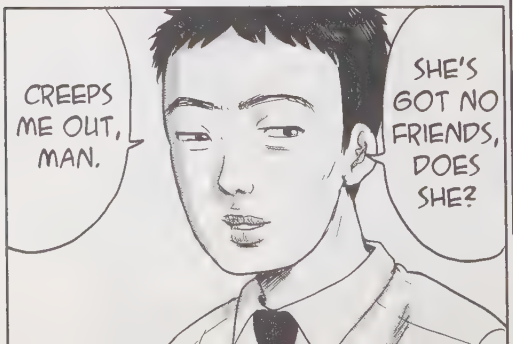

OH... HERE.
RESPOND WHEN YOU'RE CALLED!
HEY!
You left the entire test blank! What's your explanation?
Nakamura, zero! Worst score in class!
...
YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT IN THE REAL WOR—
SAY SOME-THING!
...

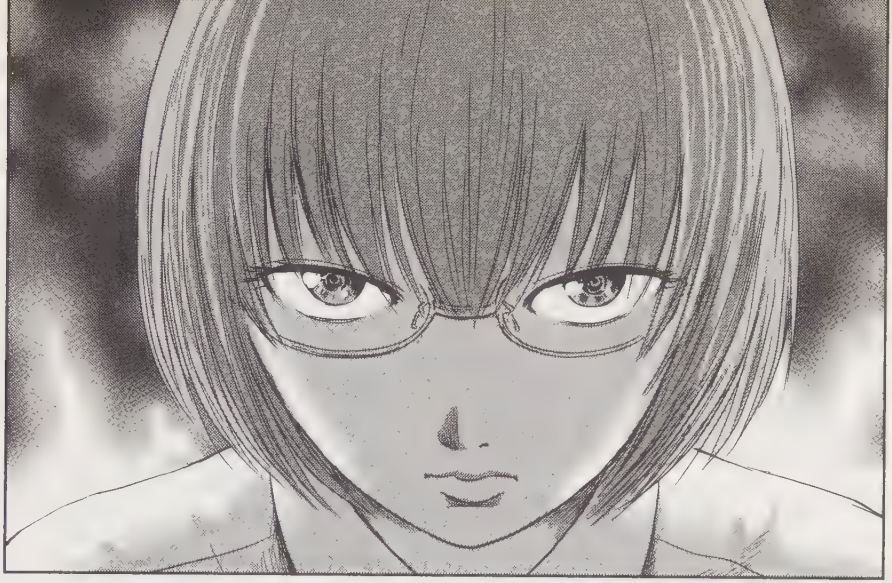
カー CAW
カー CAW

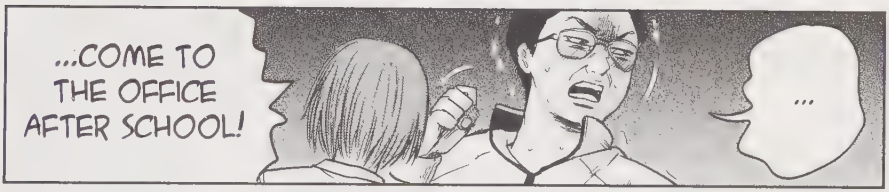

HUH ?
WHAT'S HER DEAL?

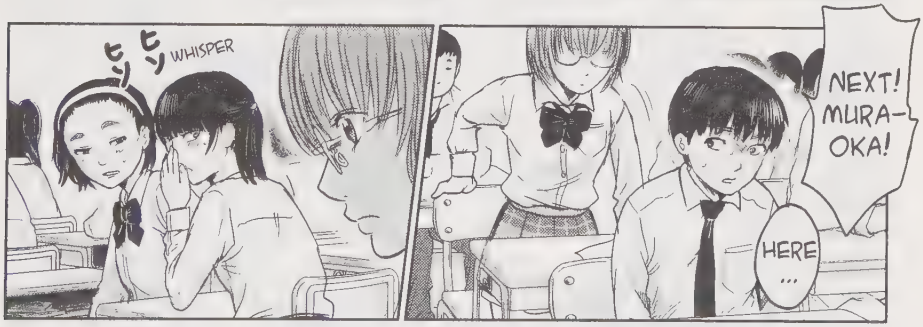

SO WHAT DOES— "SHIT-BUG" MEAN ?
YEAH ...

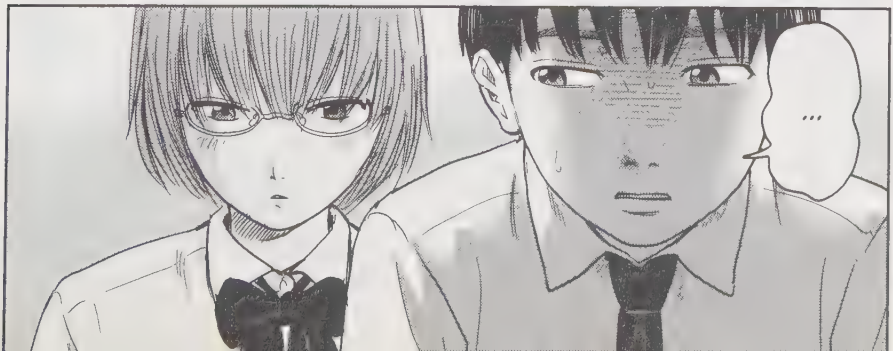

THAT NAKA-MURA GIRL.
SHE'S FREAKY. NO IDEA WHAT TH' HELL SHE'S THINK-ING.


CREEPS ME OUT, MAN.
SHE'S GOT NO FRIENDS, DOES SHE?



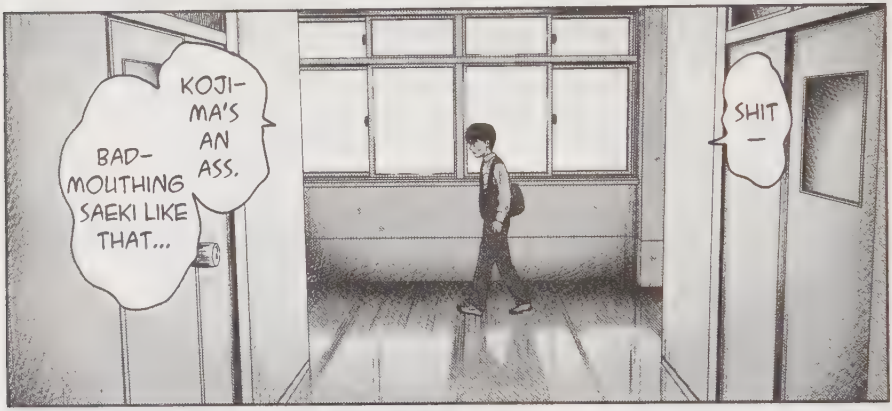

...COME TO THE OFFICE AFTER SCHOOL!
...

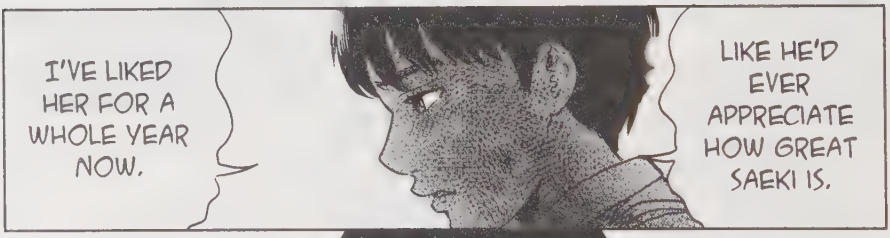

ヒソ ヒソ
WHISPER
NEXT! MURA-OKA!
HERE
...


...

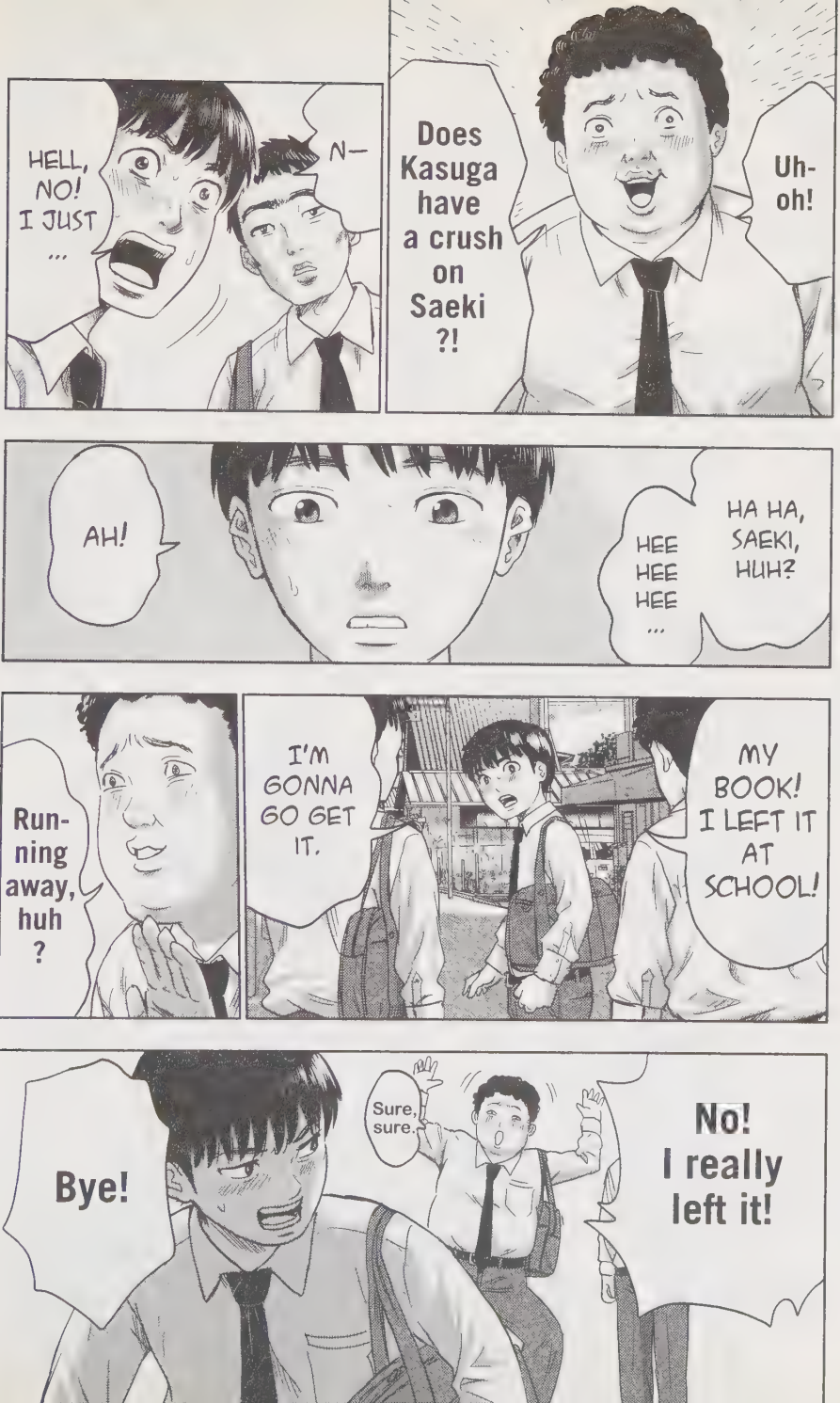
I'D WANT SAEKI.
IF I WERE TO DATE ...
I hear Saeki's got crazy pubes.
Didja know ?
カァ〜
... HUH ?
WHAT THE HELL ?
YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT GIRLS LIKE THAT!
SHUV
Shut your mouth !

I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO DATE A GIRL LIKE THAT.
WELL ...
SHIMO-YAMA WAS SHAKING.
IT WAS KINDA NICE, THOUGH.
Oh yeah ?!
YOU COULDN'T GET A GIRL-FRIEND IF YOU WANTED ONE, AND YOU'RE BEING PICKY?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YAMADA?
I READ BOOKS !
I AM, TOO!
YOU AIN'T ONE TO TALK!
KASUGA !
I DUNNO, MAN...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LITERATURE ?
YEAH, SO WHAT?

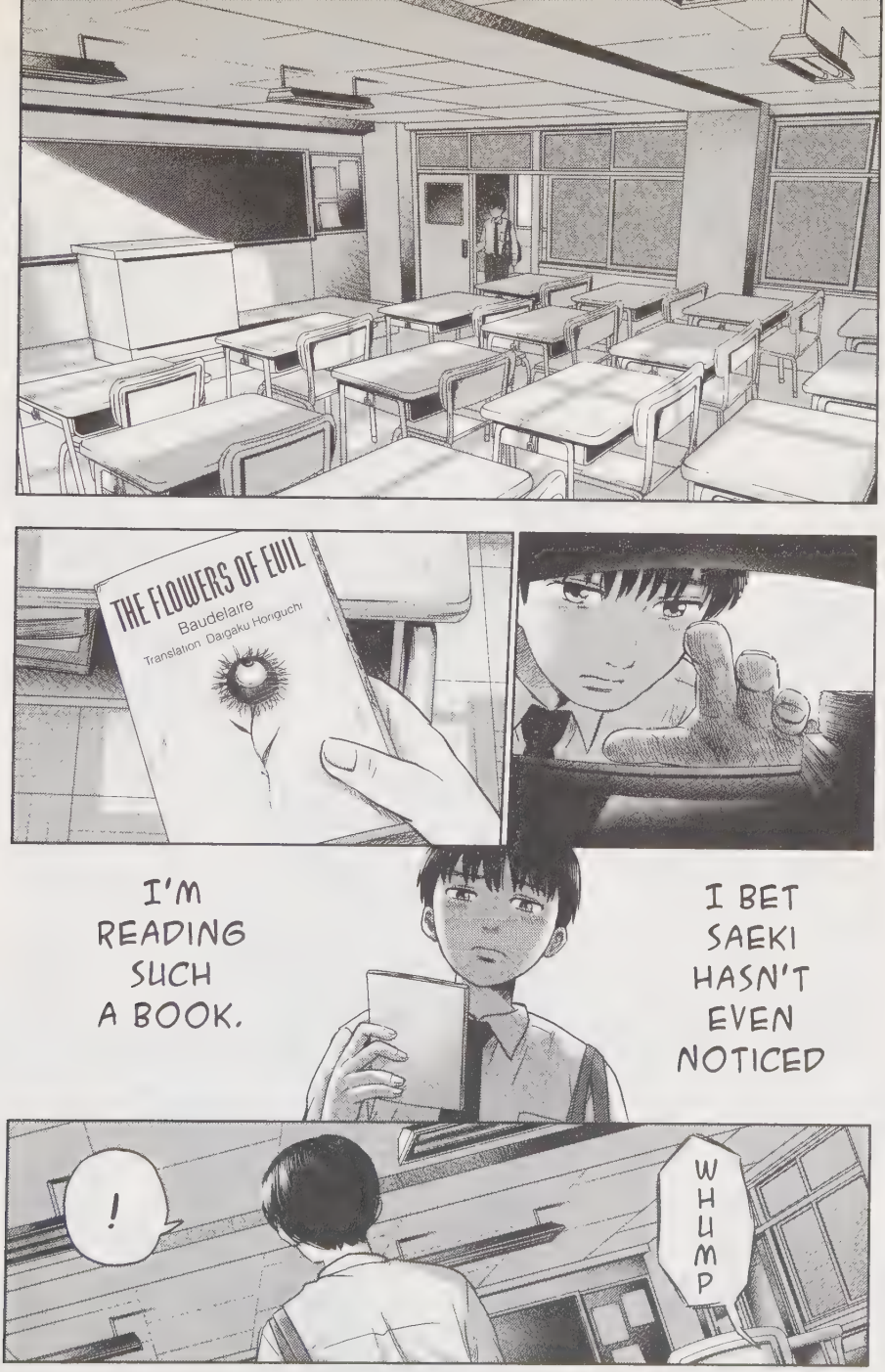

KOJI-MA'S AN ASS.
BAD-MOUTHING SAEKI LIKE THAT...
SHIT—


I'VE LIKED HER FOR A WHOLE YEAR NOW.
LIKE HE'D EVER APPRECIATE HOW GREAT SAEKI IS.

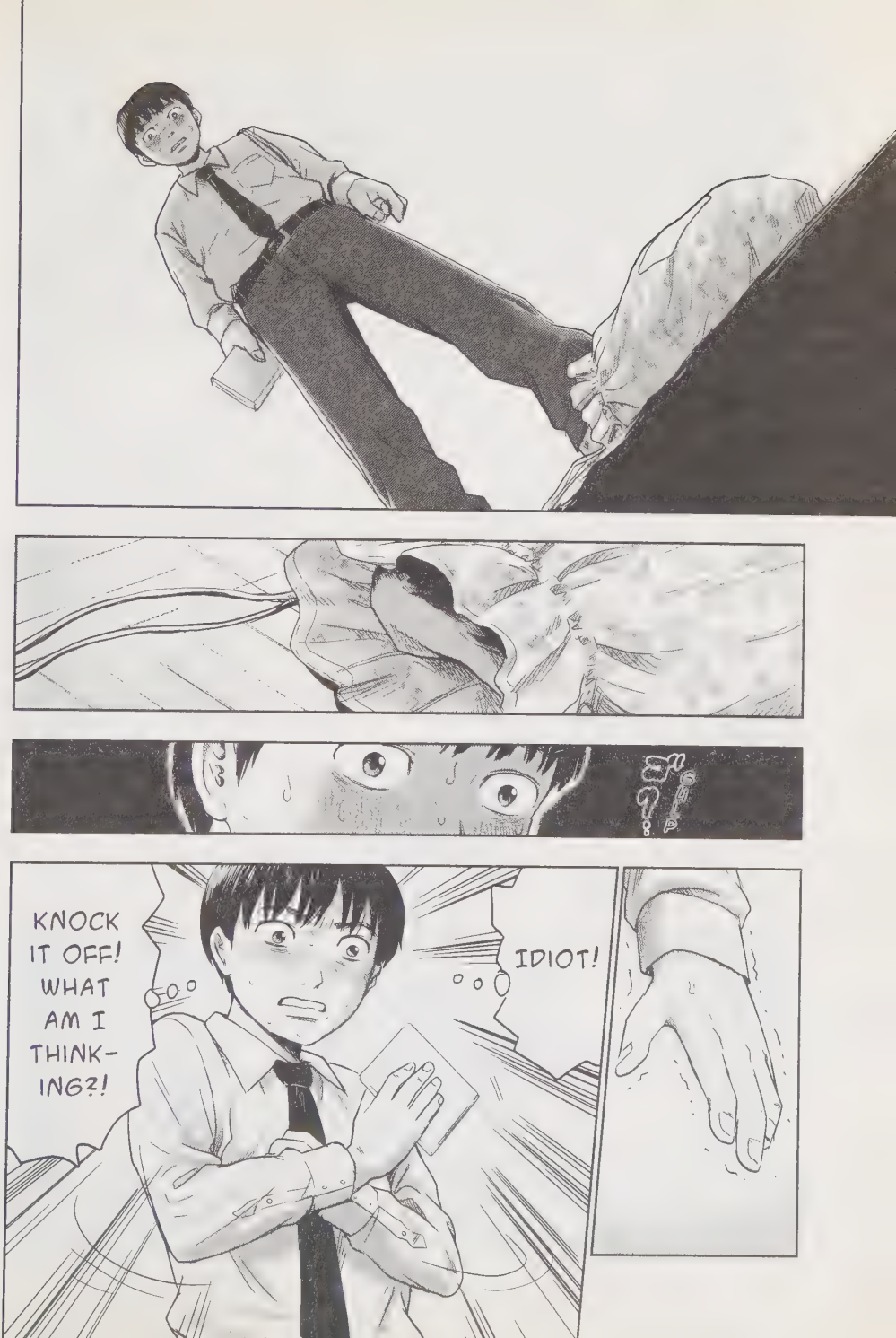
MY FEMME FATALE...
SHE'S MY MUSE...


HELL, NO! I JUST ...
N—
Does Kasuga have a crush on Saeki ?!
Uh-oh!
AH!
HEE HEE HEE ...
HA HA, SAEKI, HUH?
Running away, huh ?
I'M GONNA GO GET IT.
MY BOOK! I LEFT IT AT SCHOOL!
Bye!
Sure, sure.
No! I really left it!

GUESS SOMEONE FORGOT THEM.
A BAG FOR GYM CLOTHES...
2-1
Saeki


THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation Daigaku Horiguchi
I'M READING SUCH A BOOK.
I BET SAEKI HASN'T EVEN NOTICED
!
WHUMP

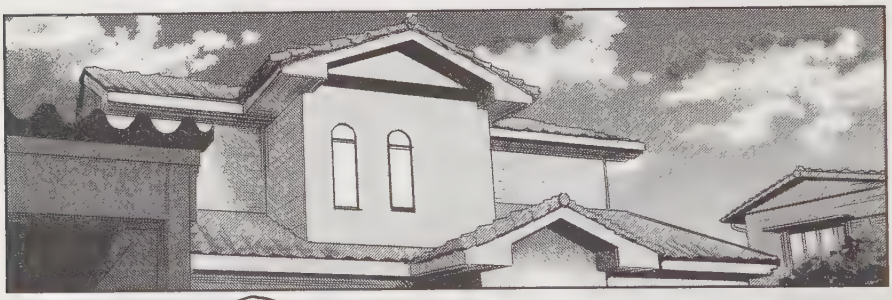
...
TUP TUP
スタスタ
TURN
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
I CAN'T DO THIS !!
BAIBUMP
NO, WAIT ...
WAIT ...
2-1 Saeki
BAIBUMP
WHOAH ...
BAIBUMP
ドクン


GHIP
IDIOT!
KNOCK IT OFF! WHAT AM I THINK-ING?!

CLATTER
CLUTCH
HAH—
HUFF
AH ...
IS SOME-ONE THERE?

2-1
Saeki
OF SHAM-POO ...
THE SMELL ...

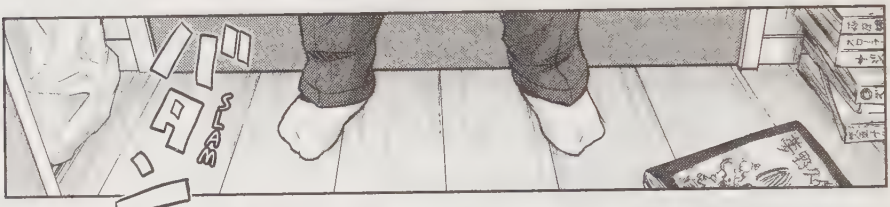
SQUIK SQUIK
キュッキュッキュッキュッ



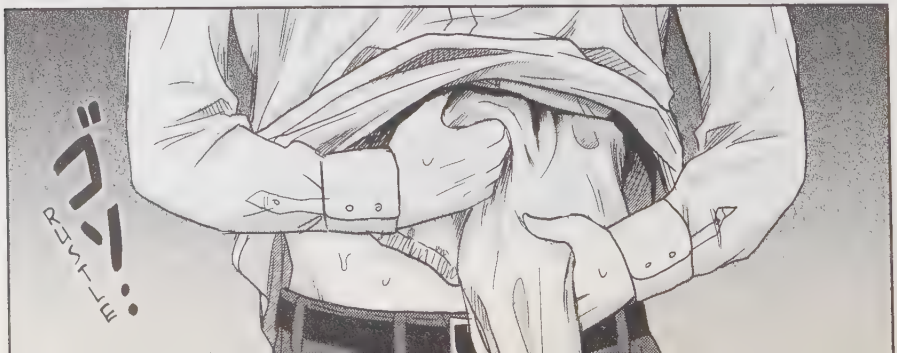
WEL-COME HOME!
ぴくっ
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HAH
—
CLUTCH
UH
AHH
AH
UKK
...
SLIDE
GUH
AH
...
...
DASH

HE'S AS BAD ABOUT BOOKS AS HIS FATHER.
HON-ESTLY ...
STOMP
STOMP

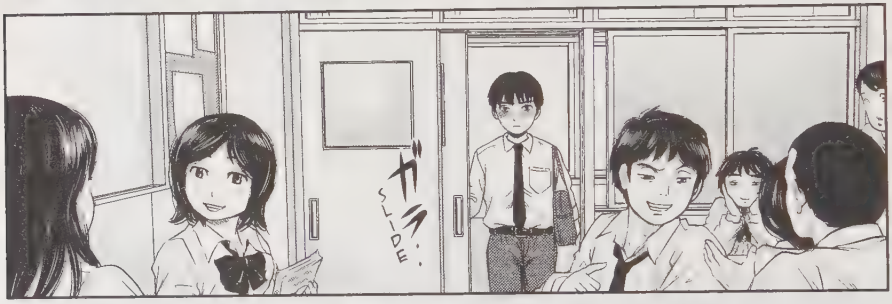


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

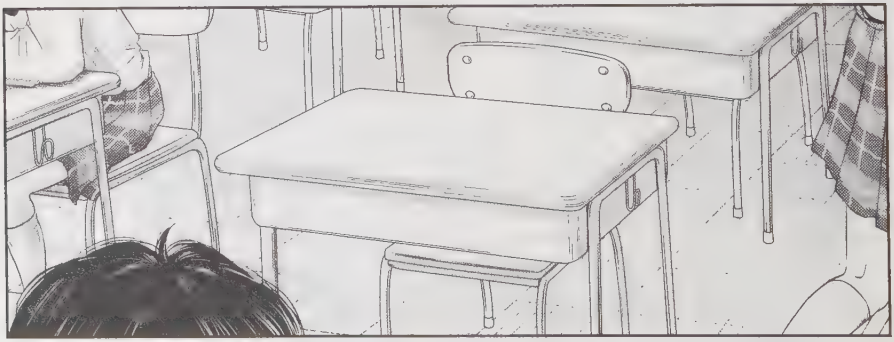


WHAT'S WRONG, TAKAO? WHY ARE YOU SO SWEATY?
YOU DON'T FEEL WELL?
No, I'm —
Hah ... I-I'm ... fine!
TAKAO!
Wh-What?!
I TOLD YOU YESTER-DAY TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM!
HURRY UP AND DO IT!
OKAY, ALREADY!
J-JUST LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A MINUTE!

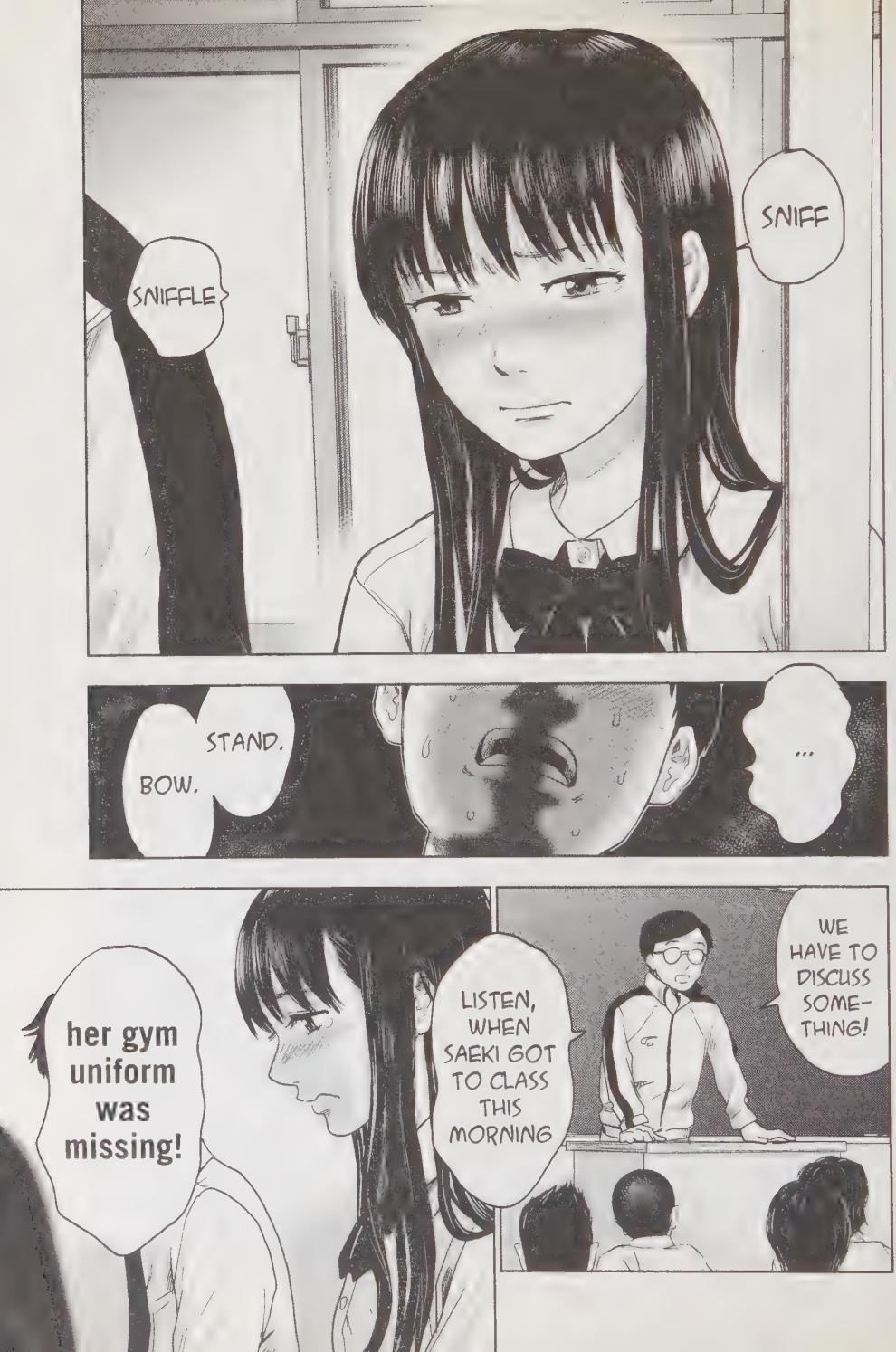
チュン
CHI-RP
チュン…
CHI-RP


ガラ…
SLIDE

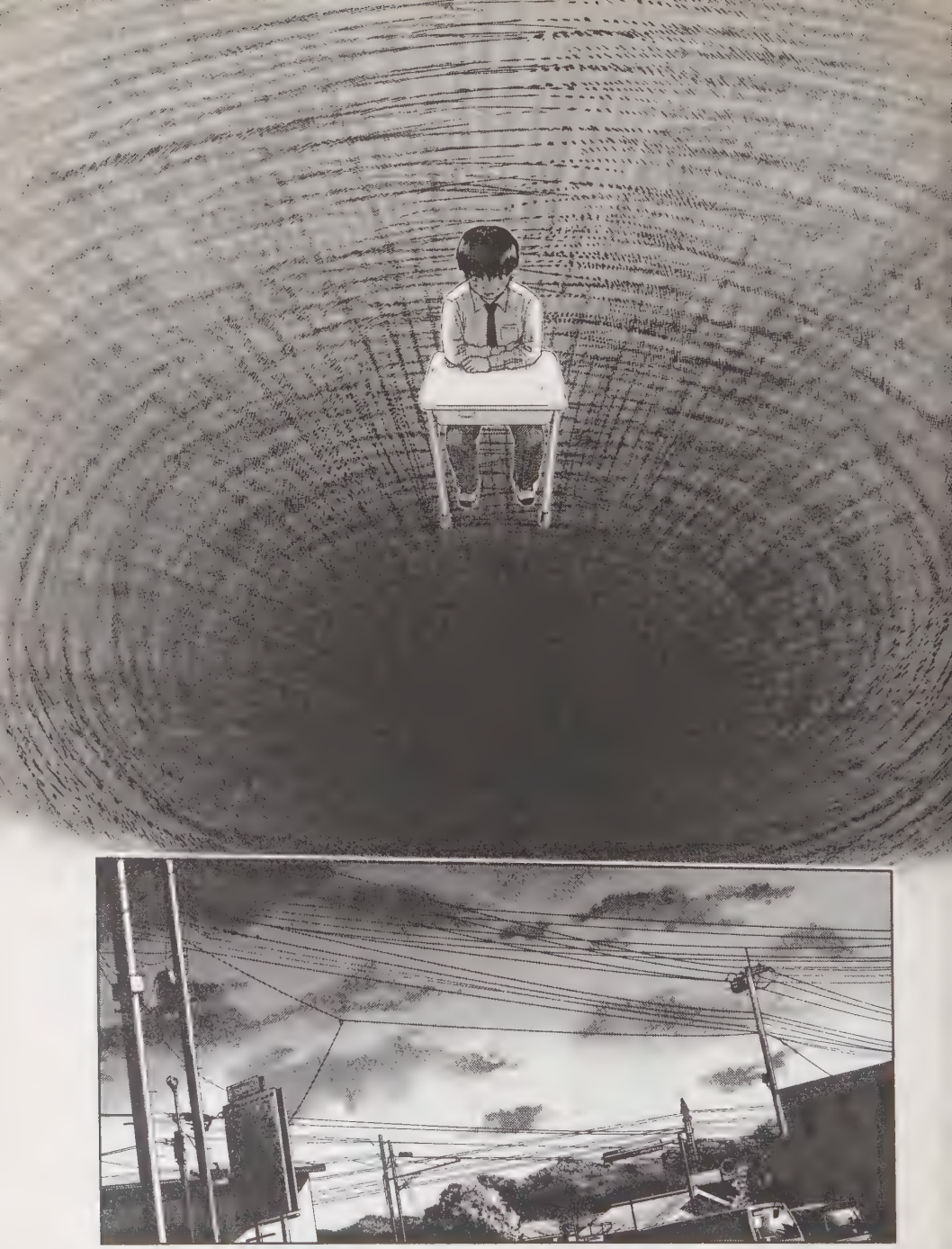
…

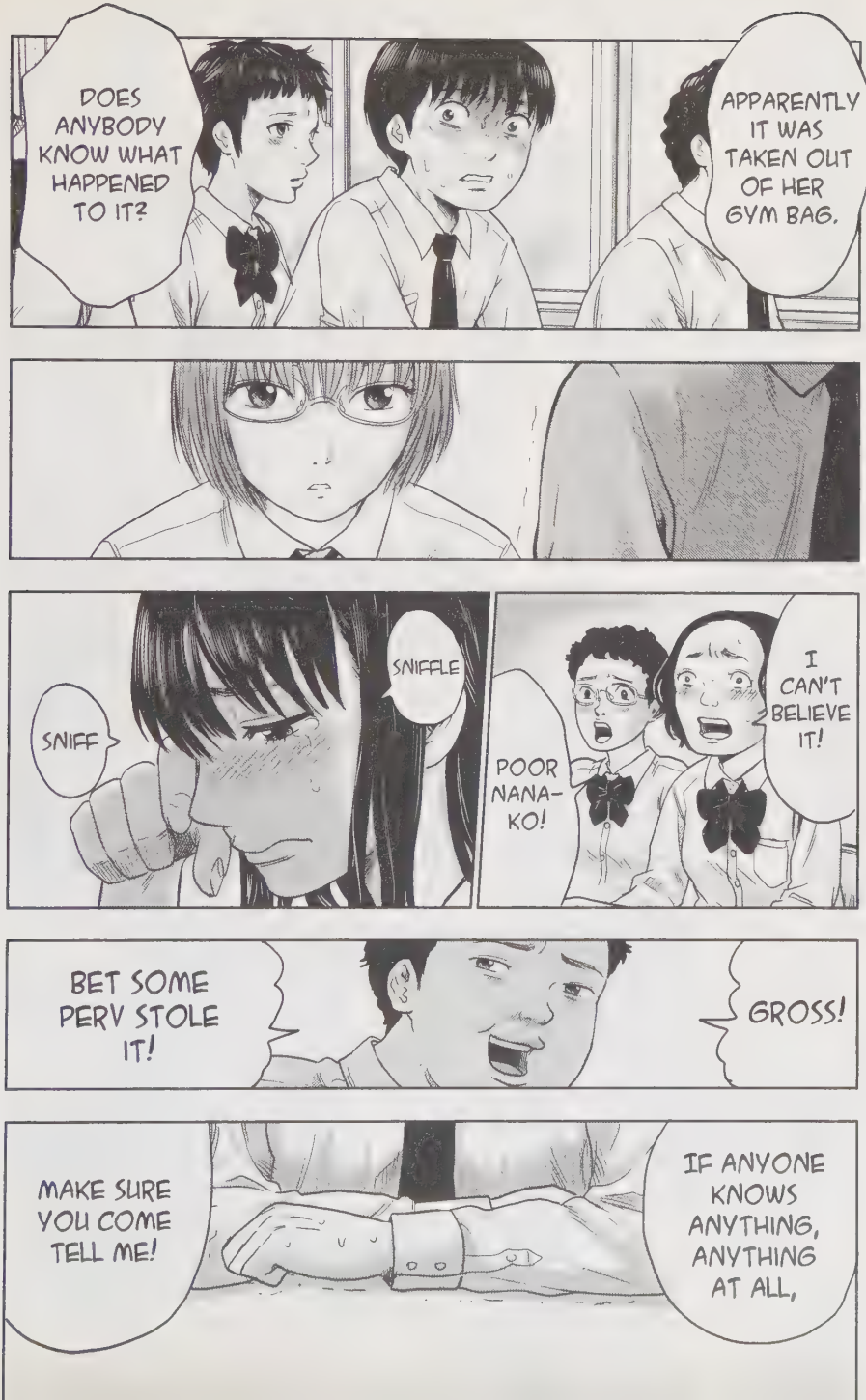


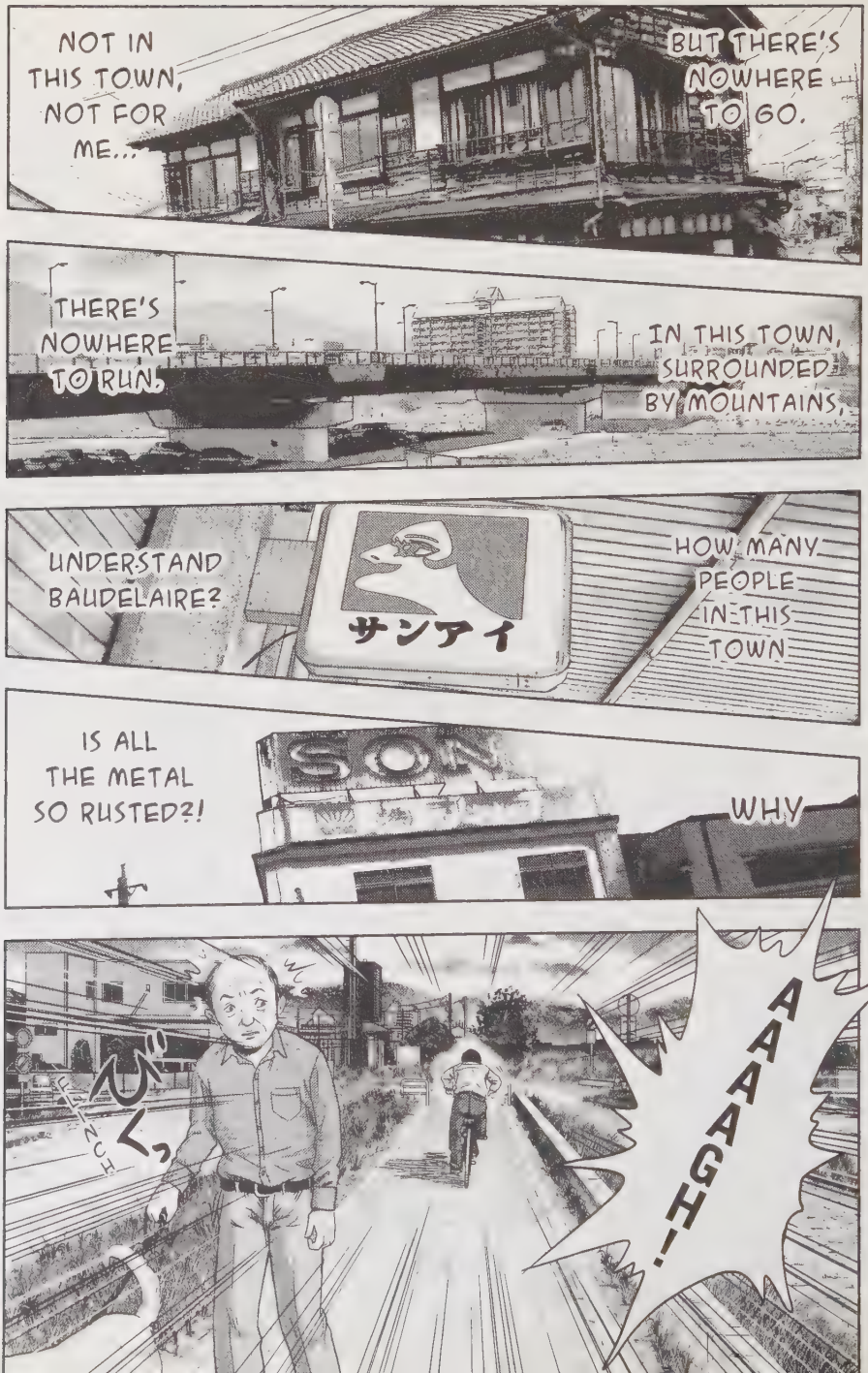
2-1
Saeki
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL.
FOR REAL ...


SNIFFLE
SNIFF
STAND.
BOW.
...
her gym uniform was missing!
LISTEN, WHEN SAEKI GOT TO CLASS THIS MORNING
WE HAVE TO DISCUSS SOME-THING!

HEY, DIDJA WATCH, LAST NIGHT?
'SUP, KA-SUGA.
IS SAEKI ABSENT TODAY?
SHUT UP! JUST DON'T TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW!
IF SHE'S ABSENT TODAY, I CAN JUST SNEAK THEM BACK...
...
HUH?!
Take your seats!
ガラッ
SLIDE

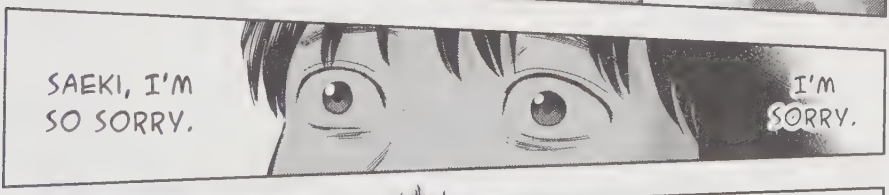


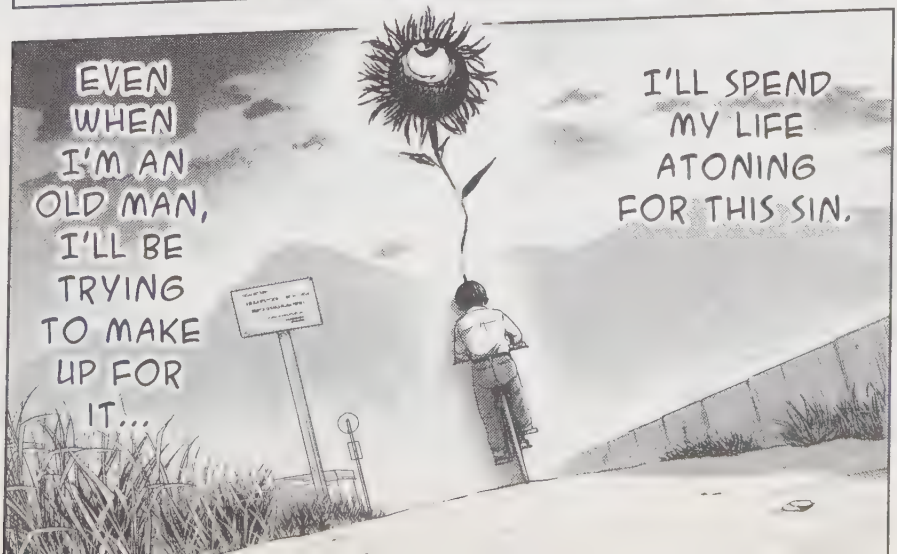

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?
APPARENTLY IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF HER GYM BAG.
SNIFF
SNIFFLE
POOR NANA-KO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BET SOME PERV STOLE IT!
GROSS!
MAKE SURE YOU COME TELL ME!
IF ANYONE KNOWS ANYTHING, ANYTHING AT ALL,

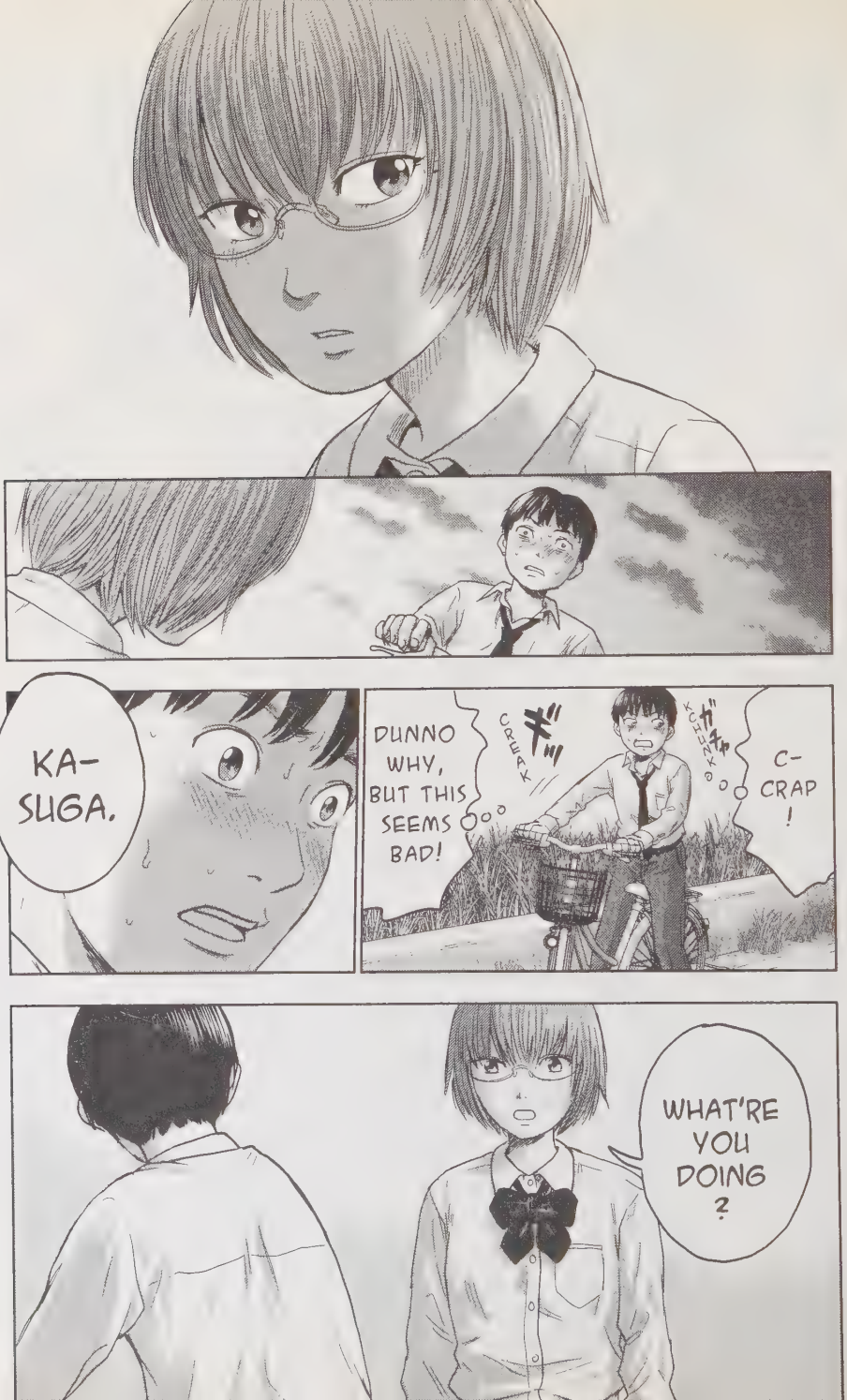

NOT IN THIS TOWN, NOT FOR ME...
BUT THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.
IN THIS TOWN, SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS,
UNDERSTAND BAUDELAIRE?
サンアイ
HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN
IS ALL THE METAL SO RUSTED?!
SON
WHY
AAAAGH!
CLENCH

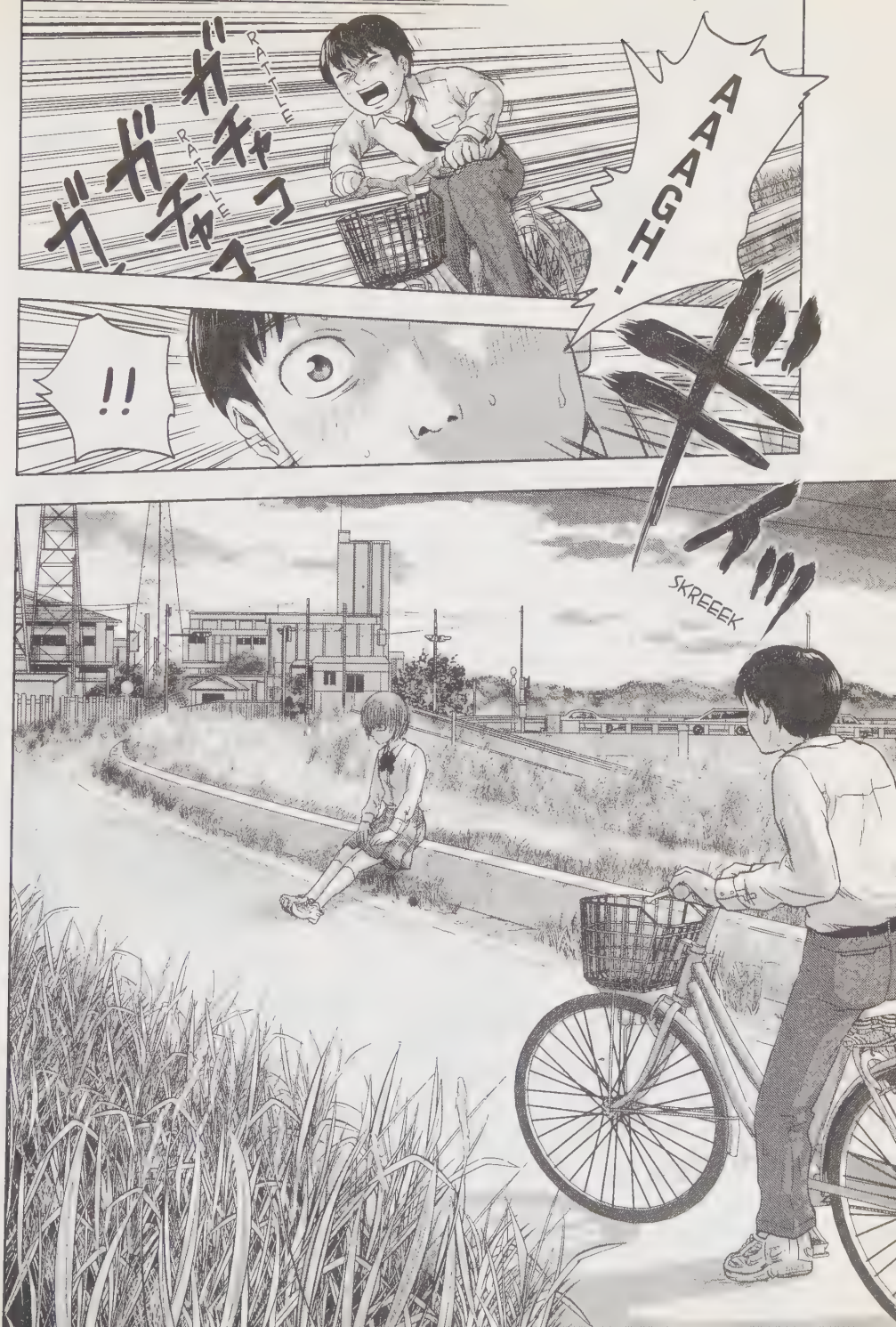
TO GO FAR AWAY ...
I WANT TO LEAVE ...

A SINNER.
I'M


SAEKI, I'M SO SORRY.
I'M SORRY.

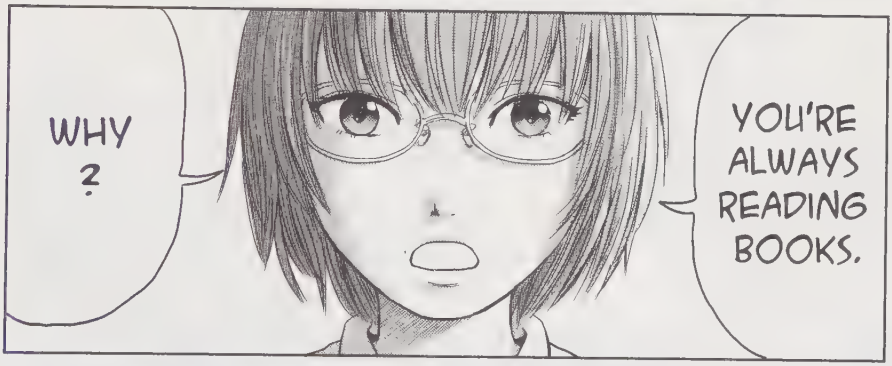

EVEN WHEN I'M AN OLD MAN, I'LL BE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT...
I'LL SPEND MY LIFE ATONING FOR THIS SIN.

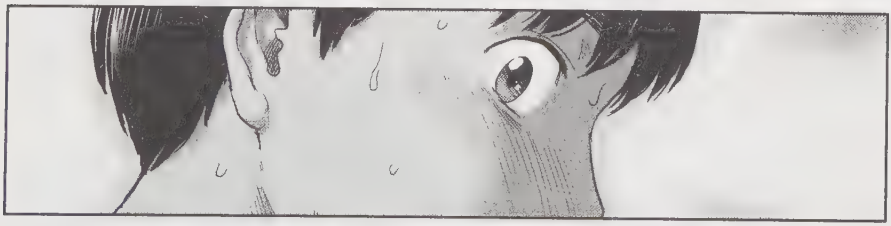

KA-
SUGA.
DUNNO WHY, BUT THIS SEEMS BAD!
CREAK
KCHUNK
C-CRAP!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?


ガチャ
RATTLE
ガチャ
RATTLE
ガチャ
AAAGH!
!!
SKREEEK

H-
HOW... DO YOU KNOW?
'CAUSE
I SIT RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF "GOOD" IS THE RIGHT WORD ...
I JUST ...
BOOKS CHANGED MY WORLD... I GUESS NOT EVERYBODY WOULD UNDERSTAND...
Huh ?!
トス
TIMP

HEY.
JUST GOING TO THE BOOK-STORE. BYE!
UH... NOTH-ING!


WHY ?
YOU'RE ALWAYS READING BOOKS.



ARE THEY GOOD ?
THAT NO-BODY'S HEARD OF.
AND THEY'RE LIKE WEIRD ONES

I NEED TO PICK IT UP AT THE BOOK-STORE ...
JOLT
THE BOOK I ORDERED CAME IN!
THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
KA-SUGA.
YOU KNOW WHAT?

what're you doing?!
Hey, what–
CARRY ME.
PAST THAT MOUNTAIN.
WH-WHY SHOULD I?!
HUH?!
BECAUSE I WANT TO GO.
WHY?

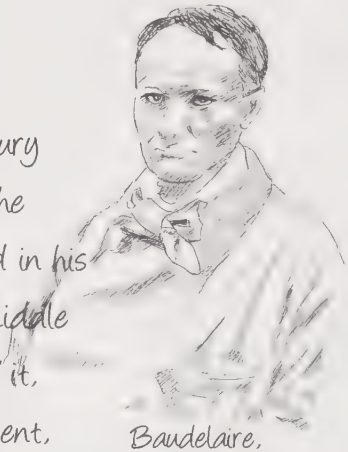
I SAW YOU STEAL SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES.
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TELL
YOU BETTER GET MOVING.
BAUDELAIRE...

I SAW YOU.

KA-
SUGA
—
I SAW
YOU.
I SAW
YOU
2-1
Saeki
STEAL
SAEKI'S
GYM
CLOTHES.

Author Notes: 1

Chapter 1

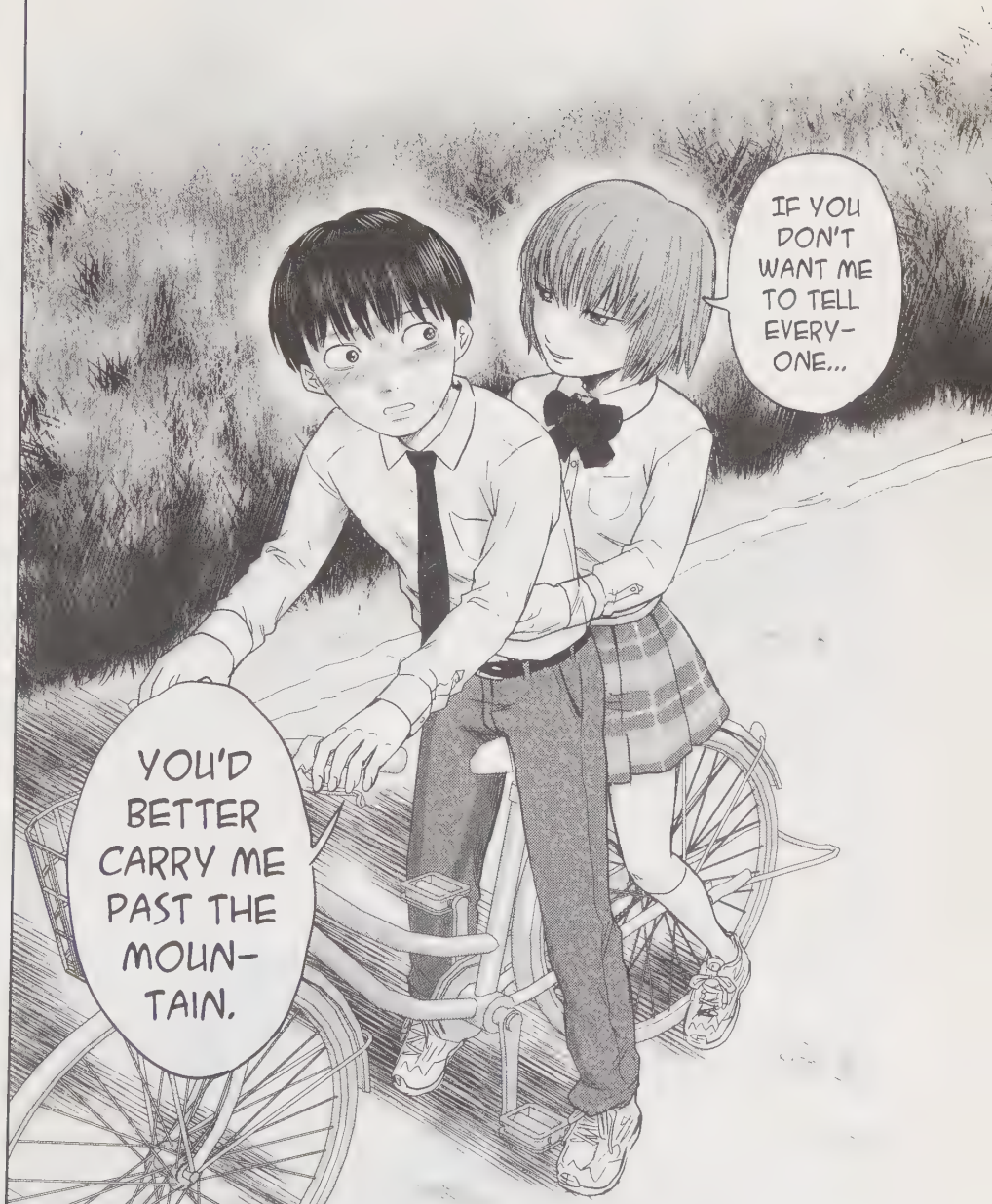


Baudelaire,
1821-1867

Charles Baudelaire was a 19th-century French poet. *The Flowers of Evil* is the only collection of poetry he produced in his life. I read it for the first time in middle school. I didn't understand much of it, but the book's feel, suspicious, indecent, yet nastily noble, made me think "I'm so cool for reading it."

I based the eye-flower on the book's cover on an illustration from the real *The Flowers of Evil* by artist Odilon Redon, modifying it for the purpose. Redon is my favorite artist. →

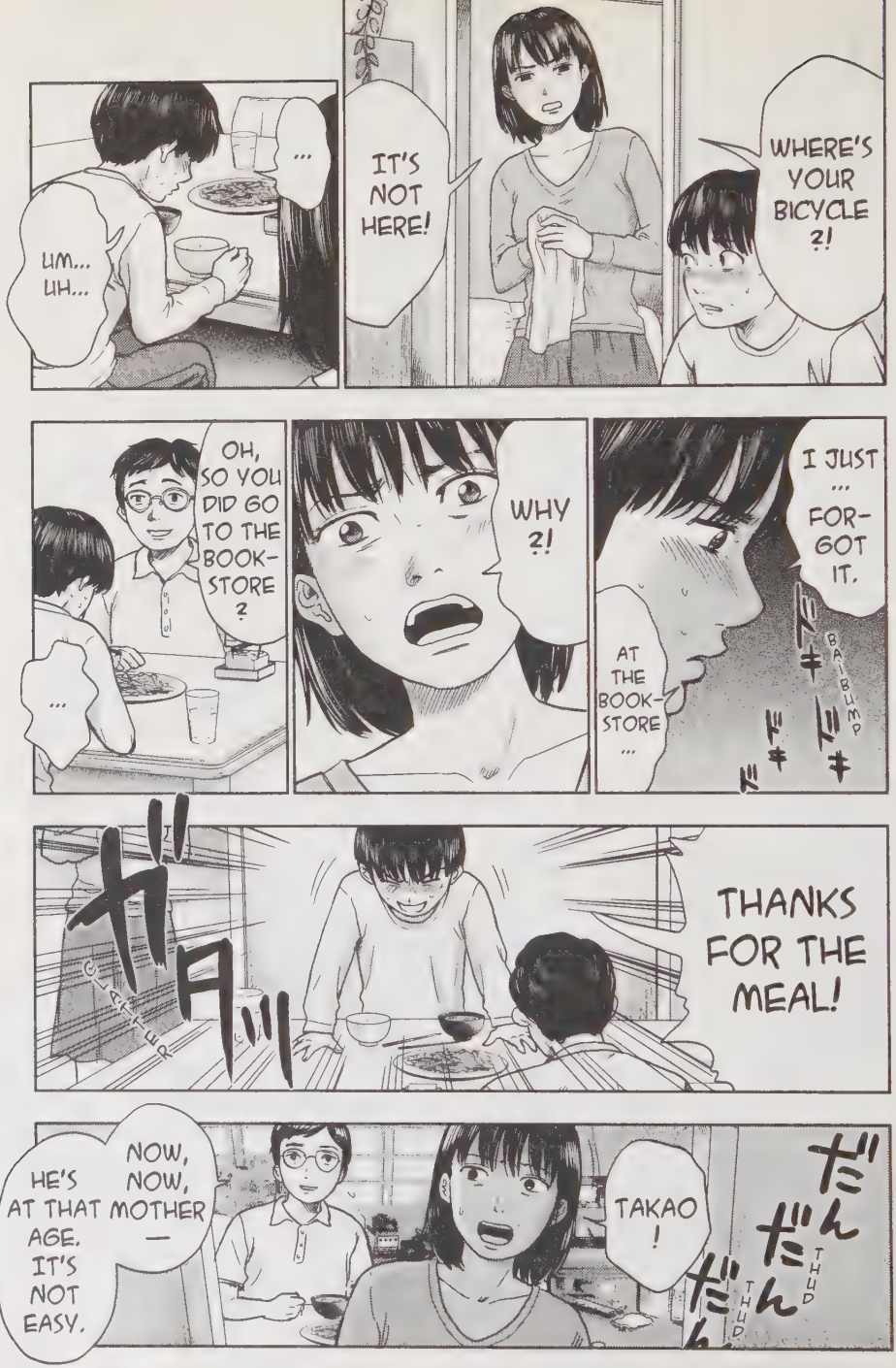
ドクン
BA-BUMP
HAA
UKK
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
カァー
CAW
カァー
CAW
ドクン
BA-BUMP
C'MON.
BUH...
ドクン
BA-BUMP

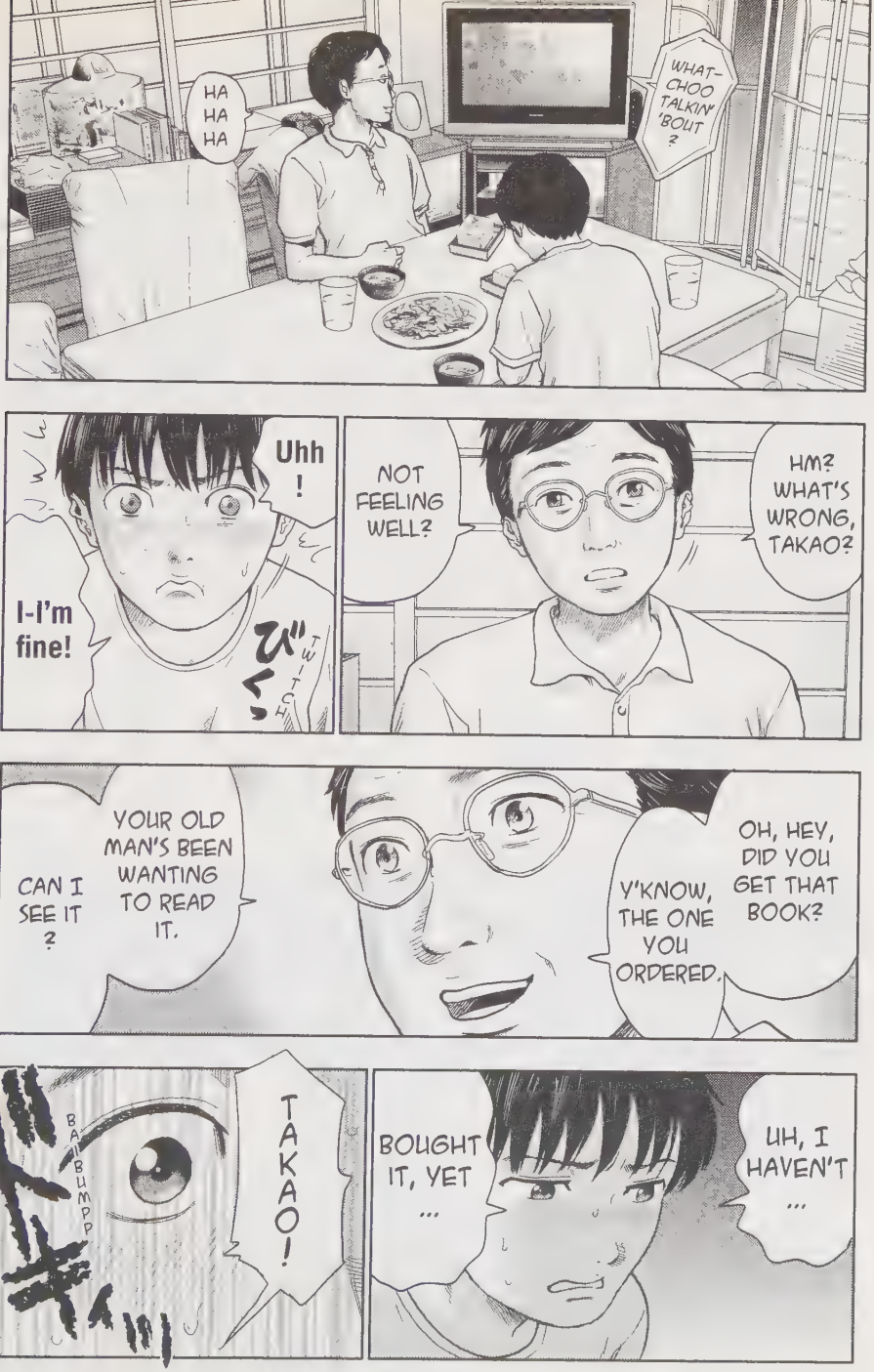


Chapter 2: Invitation to a Journey

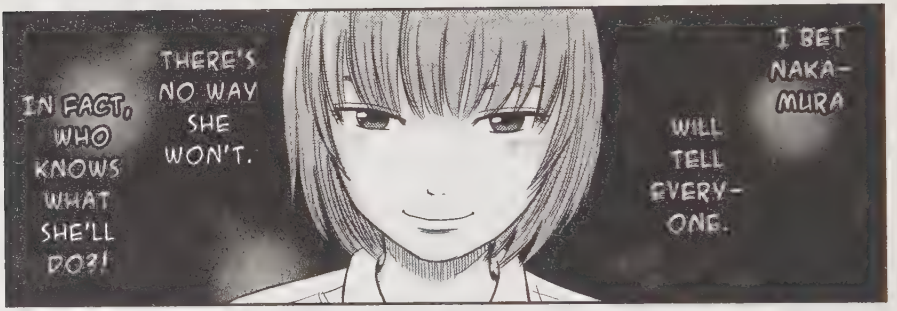
AAAAH!
TUP
TUP
RAN AWAY.
...
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK

!
CLANK
DASH
WAAAAAAAAH!

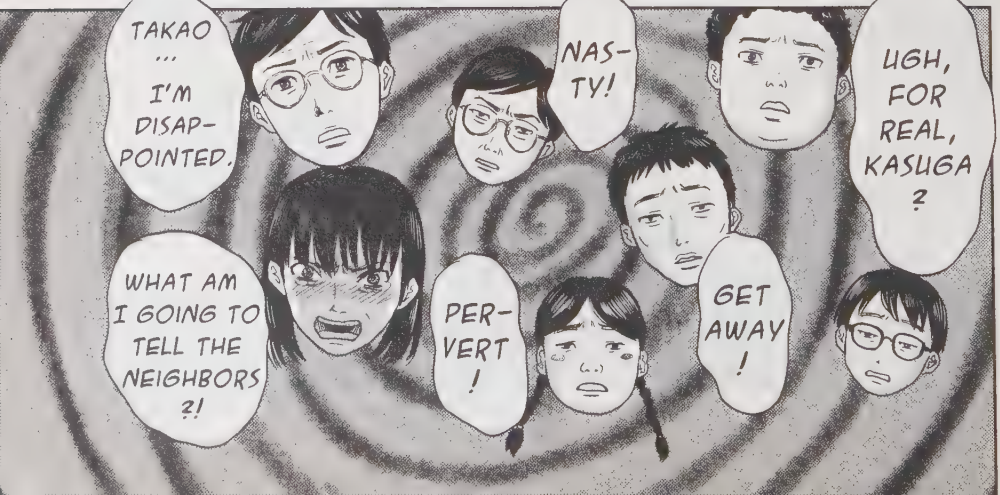

UM... UH...
...
IT'S NOT HERE!
WHERE'S YOUR BICYCLE?!
OH, SO YOU DID GO TO THE BOOK-STORE?
...
WHY?!
I JUST ... FOR-GOT IT.
BA-BUMP
AT THE BOOK-STORE ...
ガバッ
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
NOW, NOW, MOTHER —
HE'S AT THAT AGE. IT'S NOT EASY.
TAKAO!
だんだん
THUD
THUD

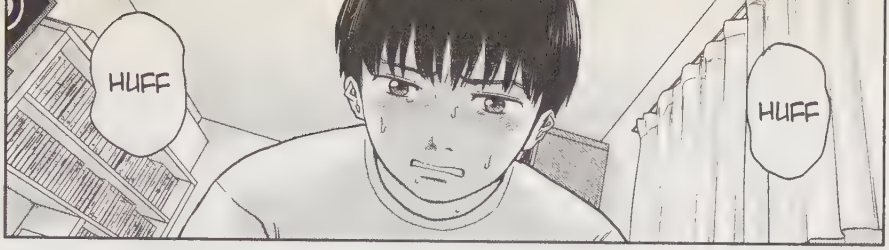

HA HA HA
WHAT-CHOO TALKIN' 'BOUT?
Uhh!
I-I'm fine!
TWITCH
びくっ
NOT FEELING WELL?
HM? WHAT'S WRONG, TAKAO?
CAN I SEE IT?
YOUR OLD MAN'S BEEN WANTING TO READ IT.
Y'KNOW, THE ONE YOU ORDERED.
OH, HEY, DID YOU GET THAT BOOK?
BAI BUMPP
TAKAO!
BOUGHT IT, YET ...
UH, I HAVEN'T ...

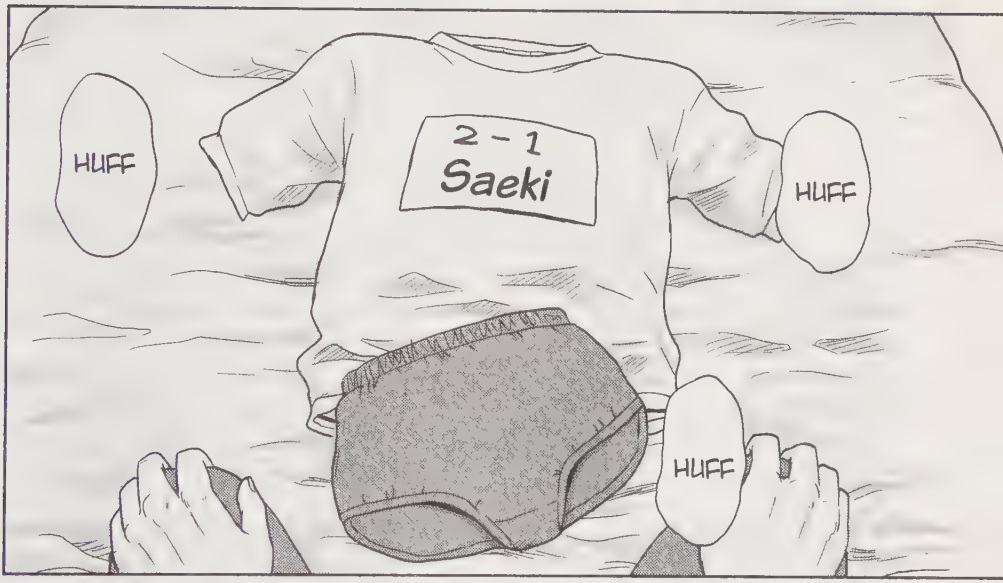
I'VE TOTALLY FALLEN!
IT'S OVER!

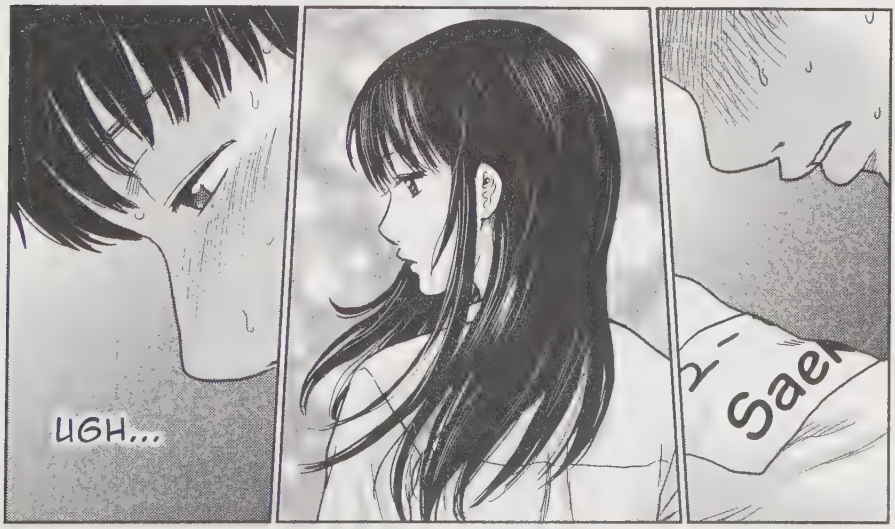

IN FACT, WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'LL DO?!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WON'T.
WILL TELL EVERY-ONE.
I BET NAKA-MURA

I JUST TOOK THEM HOME ON A WHIM!
I DIDN'T STEAL THEM ...
AAH ...
WHY ...

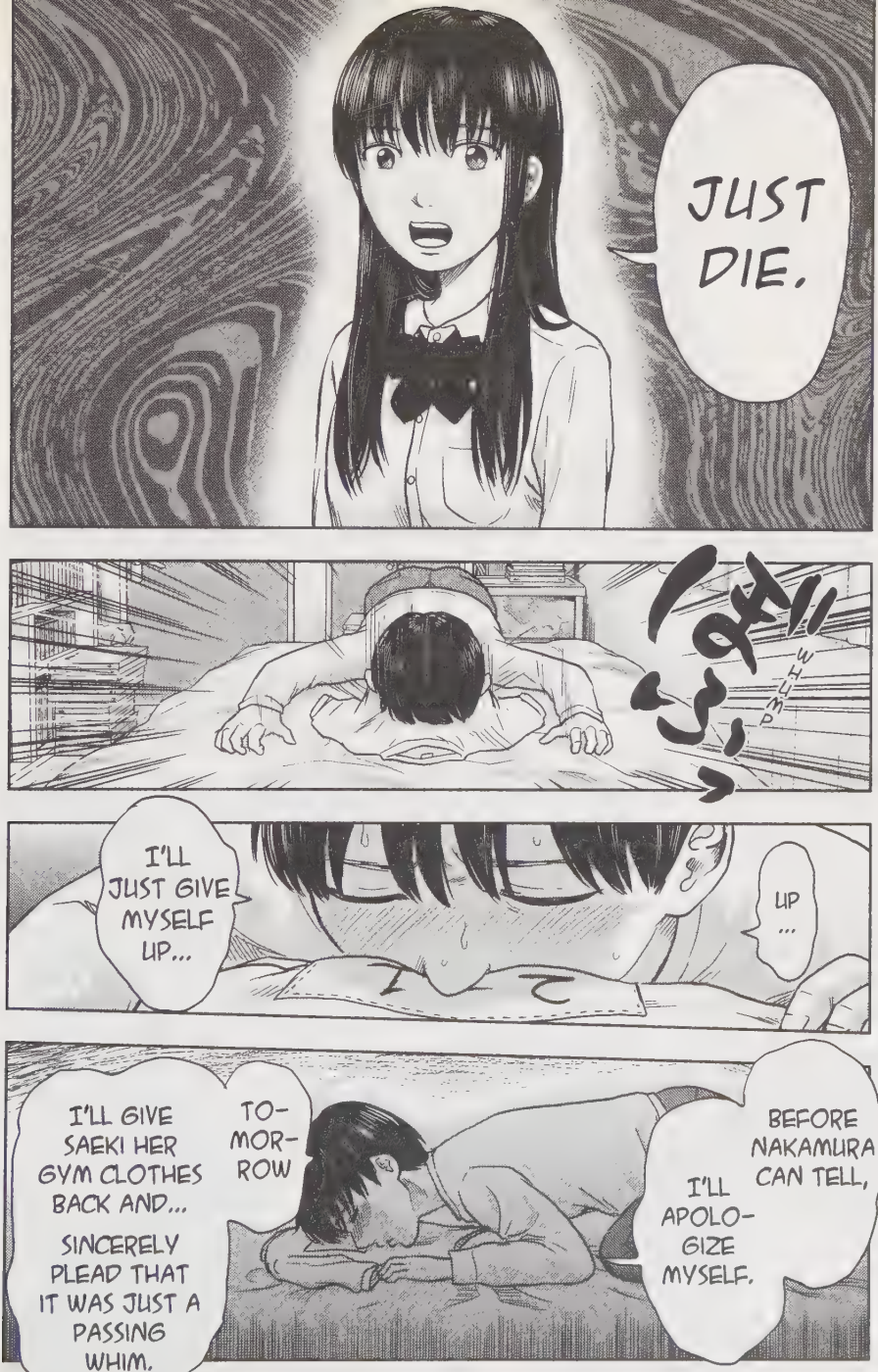

TAKAO ... I'M DISAP-POINTED.
NAS-TY!
UGH, FOR REAL, KASUGA?
WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL THE NEIGHBORS?!
PER-VERT!
GET AWAY!


HUFF
HUFF

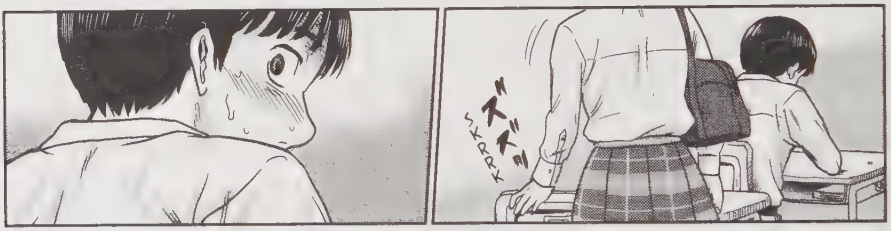

HUFF
2-1
Saeki
HUFF
HUFF

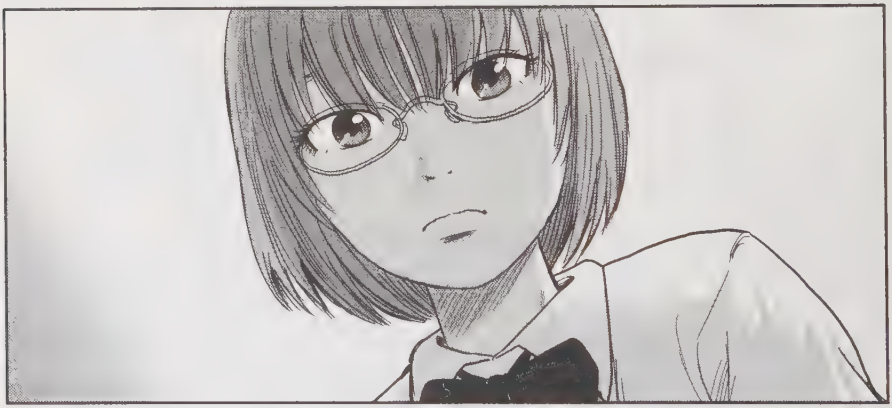

UGH...
2-
Saek

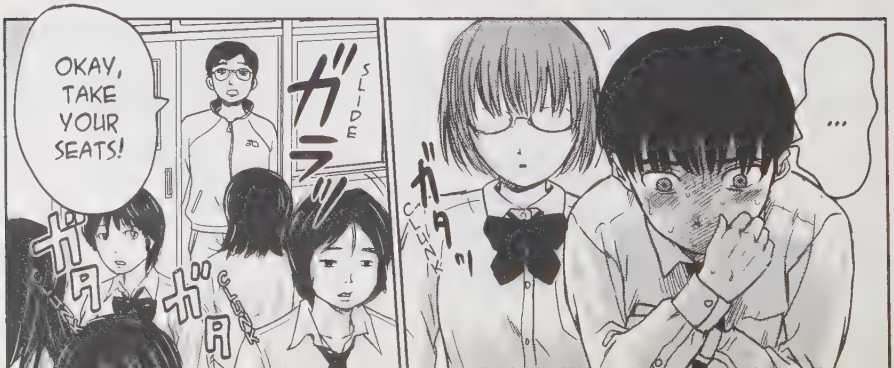
GIVE ME STRENGTH !
BAUDE-LAIRE ...
CHAPTER
キーンコーンカーンコーン
DING DONG DING DONG
ガラ
SLIDE


JUST DIE.
WHUMP
I'LL JUST GIVE MYSELF UP...
UP ...
I'LL GIVE SAEKI HER GYM CLOTHES BACK AND...
SINCERELY PLEAD THAT IT WAS JUST A PASSING WHIM.
TO-MOR-ROW
I'LL APOLO-GIZE MYSELF.
BEFORE NAKAMURA CAN TELL,

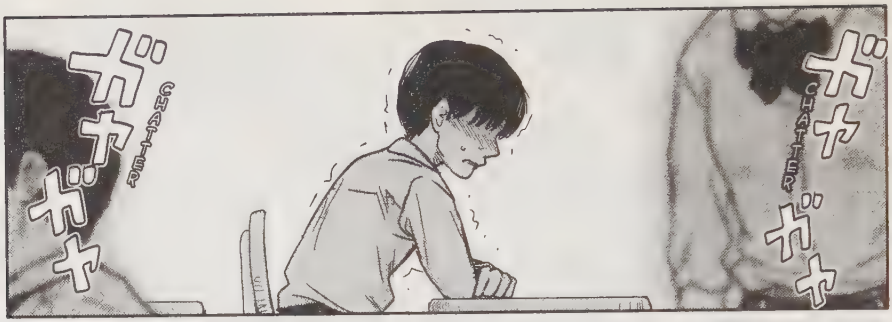
THAT I'M NOT A PERVERT!
IF IT COMES FROM MY HEART, MAYBE SHE'LL UNDER-STAND

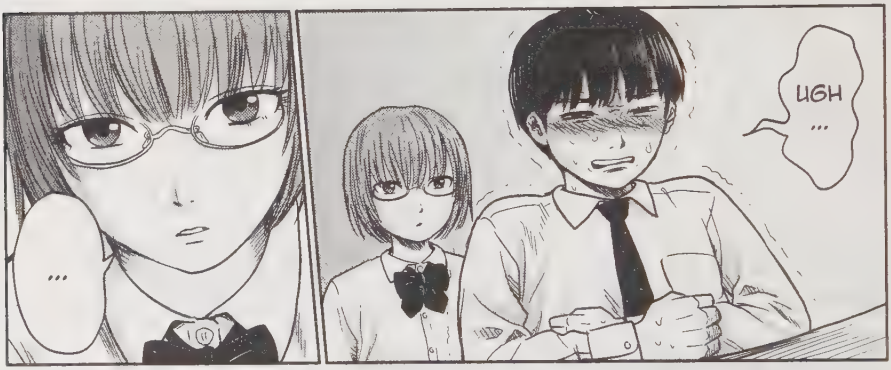

ズズッ

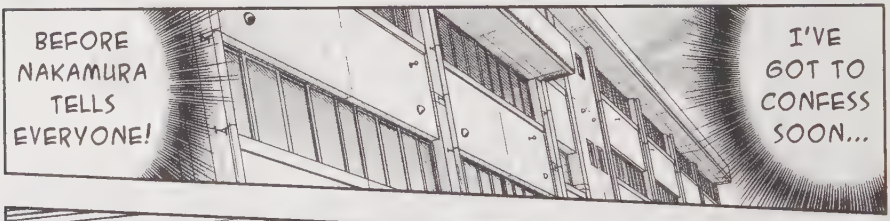



OKAY, TAKE YOUR SEATS!
SLIDE
ガラッ
ガラ
ガラ
ガタッ
...

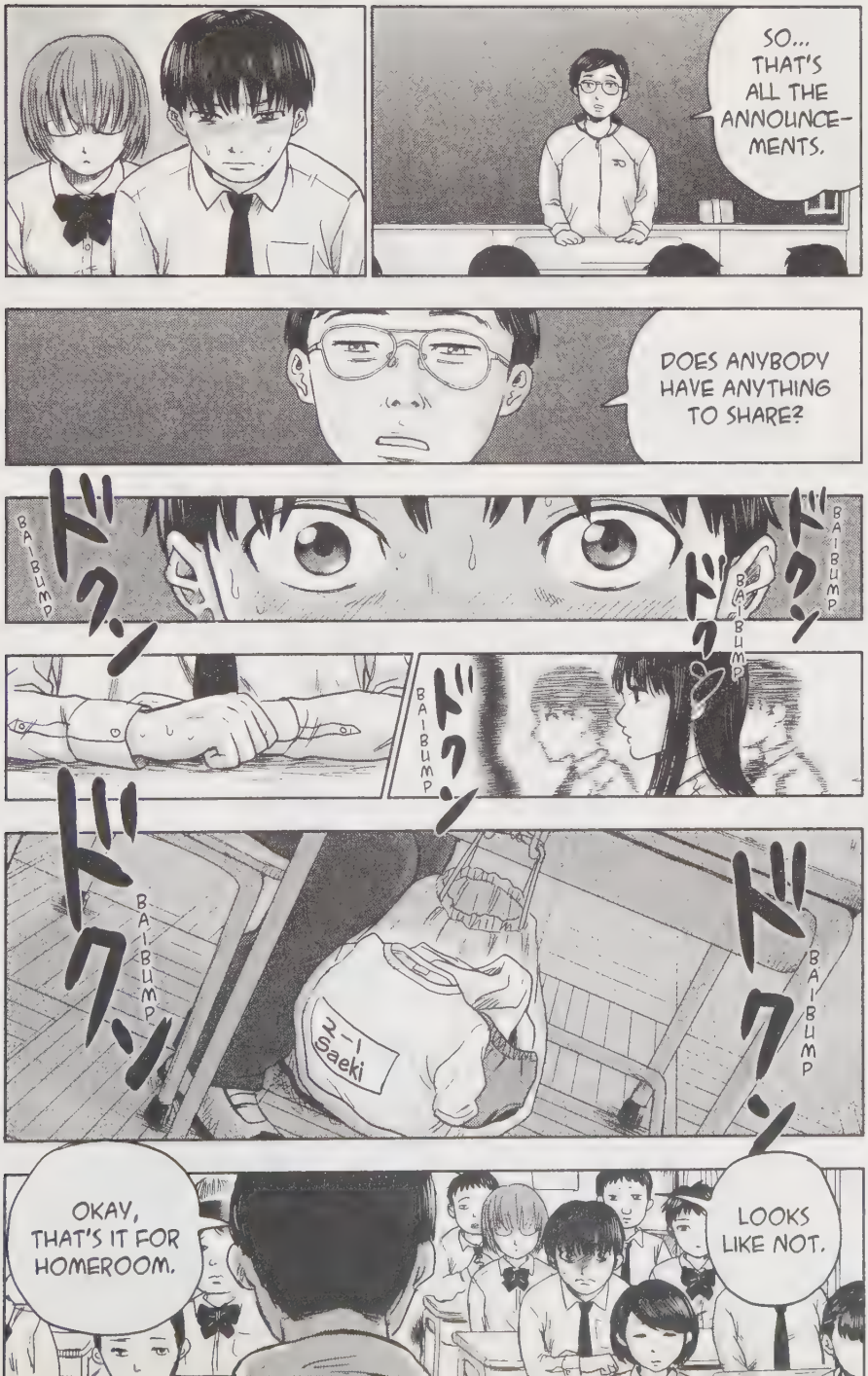
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY, NANAKO, LISTEN—
HM ?
SQUEEZE
Kasug
YO, MAN.
HEY ...
MAY-BE...

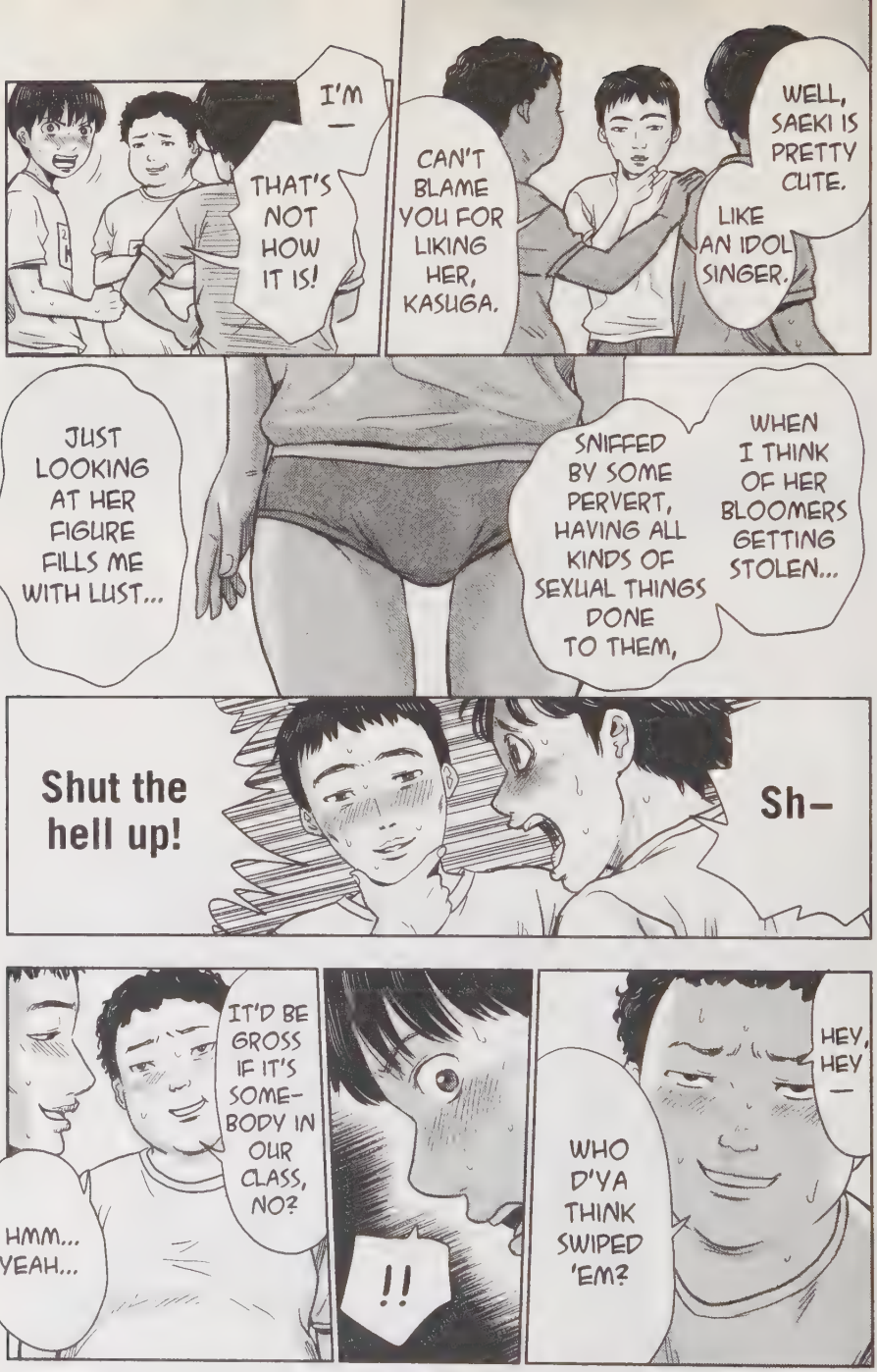

ガヤガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER

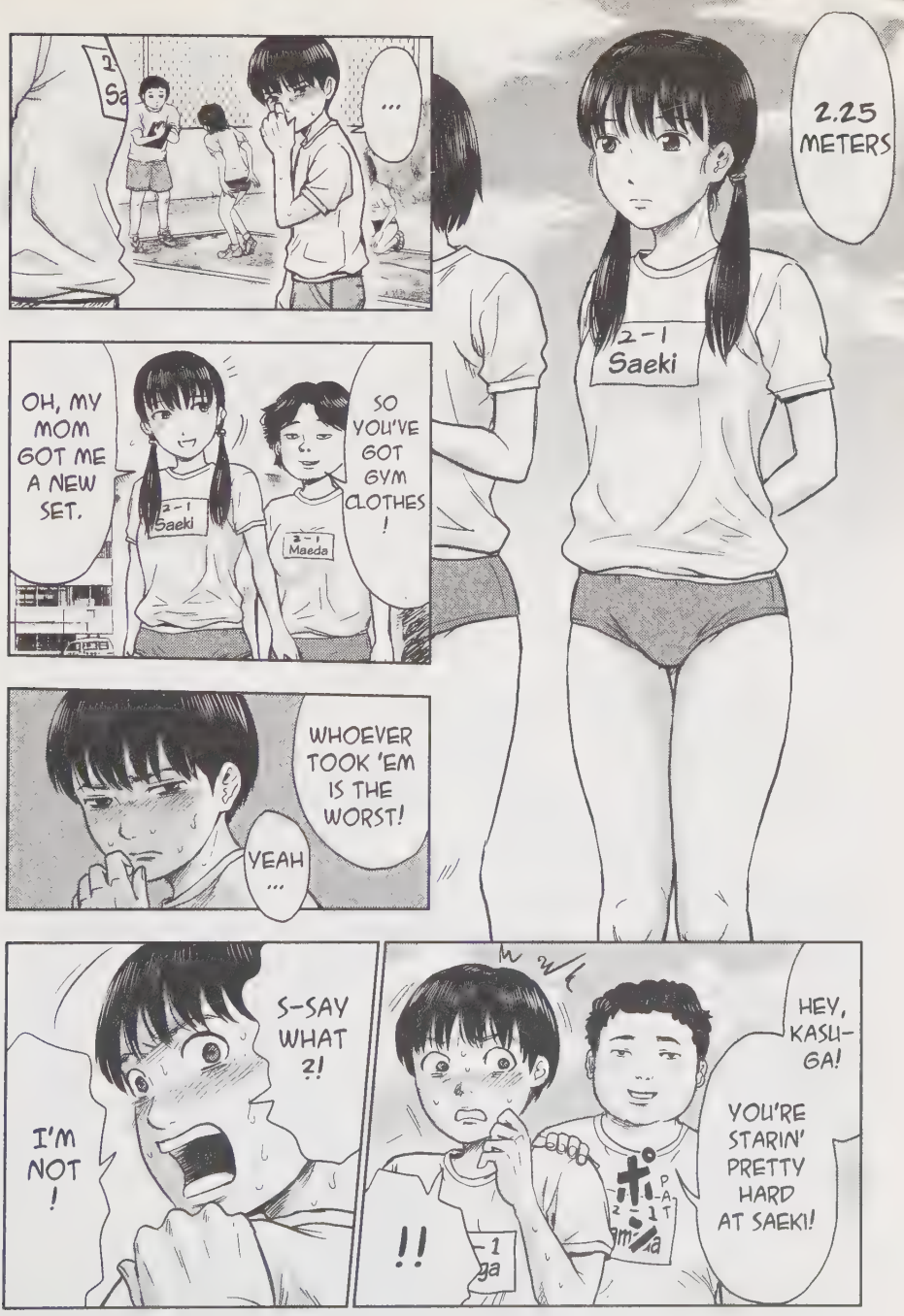

...
UGH ...


BEFORE NAKAMURA TELLS EVERYONE!
I'VE GOT TO CONFESS SOON...

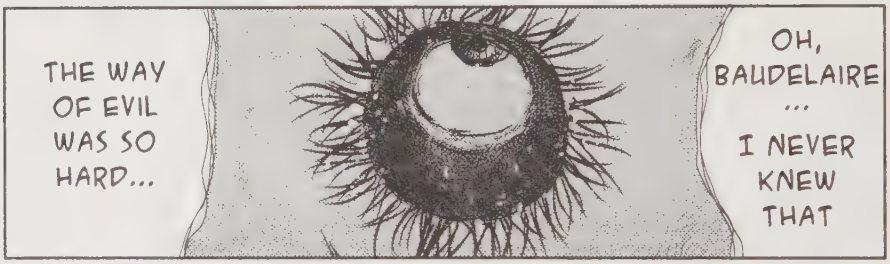
BASHHUFF
kita

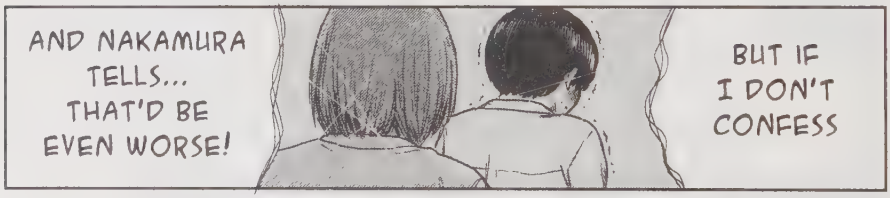

SO... THAT'S ALL THE ANNOUNCE-MENTS.
DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE?
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
2-1 Saeki
OKAY, THAT'S IT FOR HOMEROOM.
LOOKS LIKE NOT.

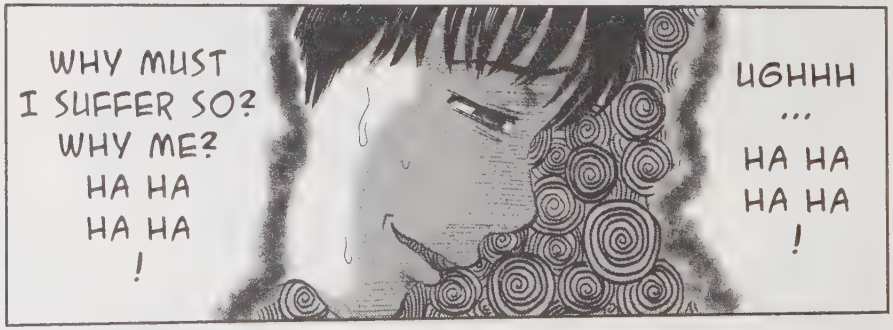

I'M—
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR LIKING HER, KASUGA.
WELL, SAEKI IS PRETTY CUTE.
LIKE AN IDOL SINGER.
JUST LOOKING AT HER FIGURE FILLS ME WITH LUST...
SNIFFED BY SOME PERVERT, HAVING ALL KINDS OF SEXUAL THINGS DONE TO THEM,
WHEN I THINK OF HER BLOOMERS GETTING STOLEN...
Shut the hell up!
Sh–
IT'D BE GROSS IF IT'S SOME-BODY IN OUR CLASS, NO?
HMM... YEAH...
!!
HEY, HEY—
WHO D'YA THINK SWIPED 'EM?

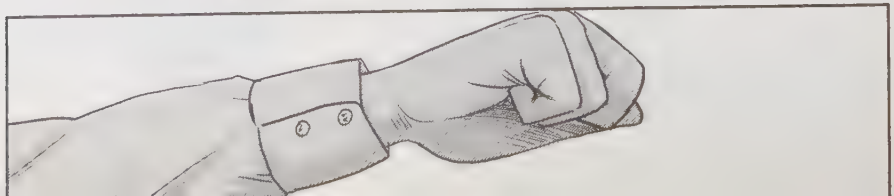

...
2.25 METERS
2-1 Saeki
OH, MY MOM GOT ME A NEW SET.
SO YOU'VE GOT GYM CLOTHES!
2-1 Saeki
2-1 Maeda
WHOEVER TOOK 'EM IS THE WORST!
YEAH ...
S-SAY WHAT?!
I'M NOT!
!!
HEY, KASU-GA!
YOU'RE STARIN' PRETTY HARD AT SAEKI!

THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation: Daigaku Hunguch
IT'S TOO MUCH ...
I CAN'T CON-FESS.

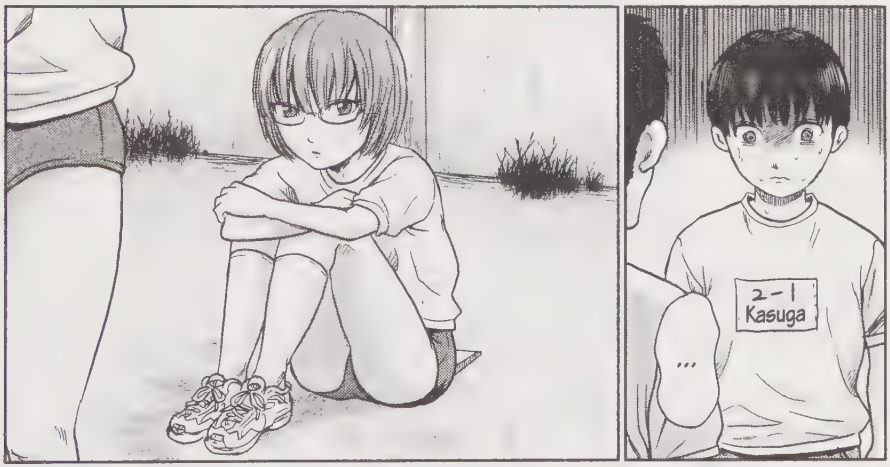

THE WAY OF EVIL WAS SO HARD...
OH, BAUDELAIRE ...
I NEVER KNEW THAT

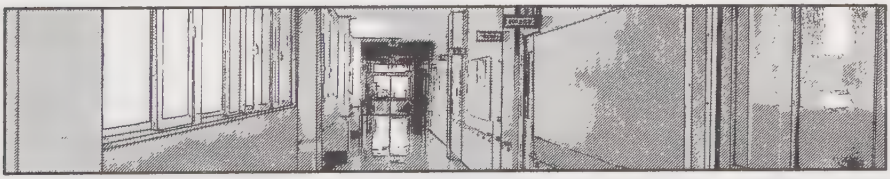

AND NAKAMURA TELLS... THAT'D BE EVEN WORSE!
BUT IF I DON'T CONFESS

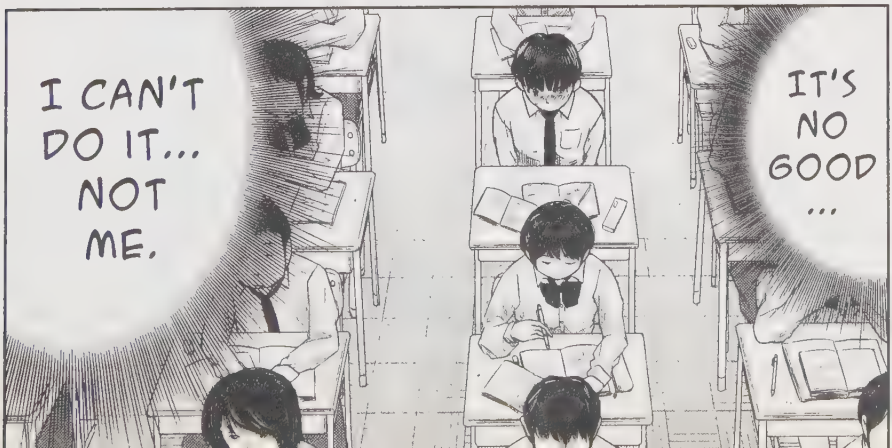

WHY MUST I SUFFER SO? WHY ME? HA HA HA HA !
UGHHH ... HA HA HA HA !

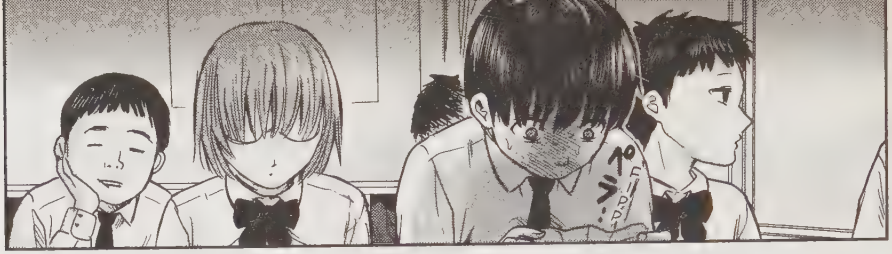


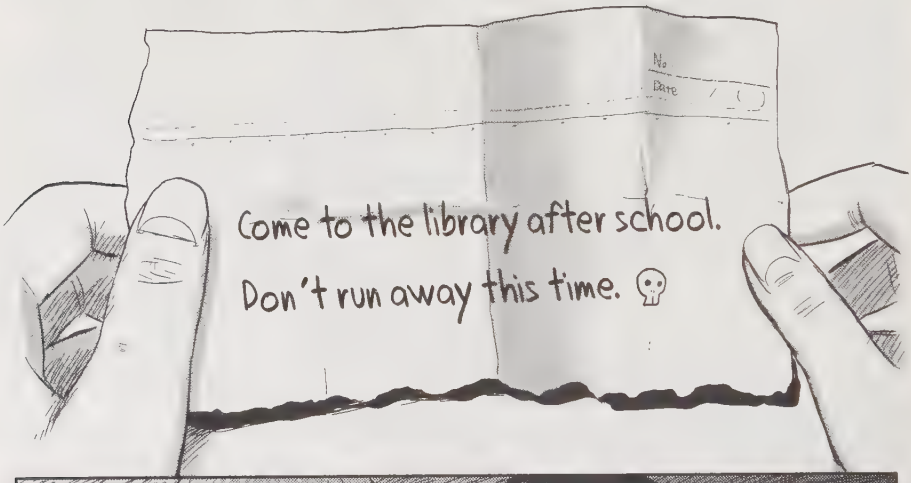
IT'S ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT IT,
BUT WHO-EVER'D REALLY DO IT IS CRAZY.
THAT'S A CRIME, SERIOUSLY.
IT'S FREAKY.

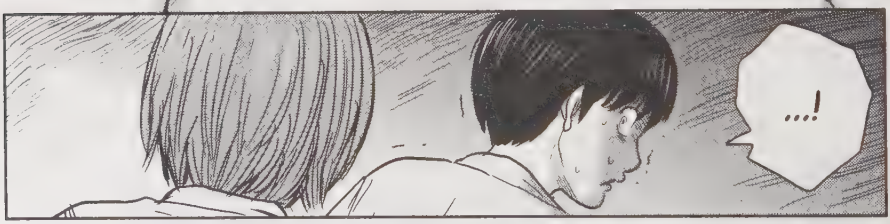

2-1
Kasuga
...

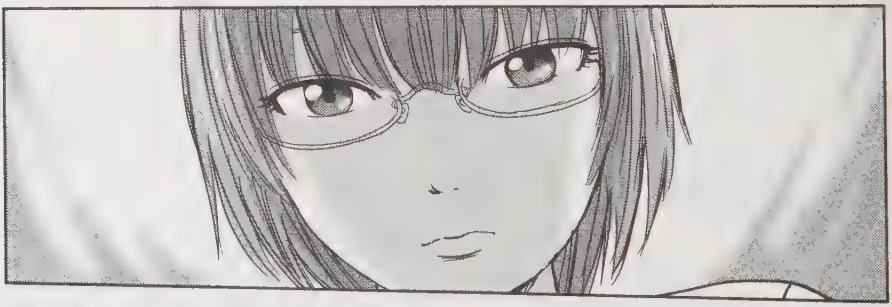


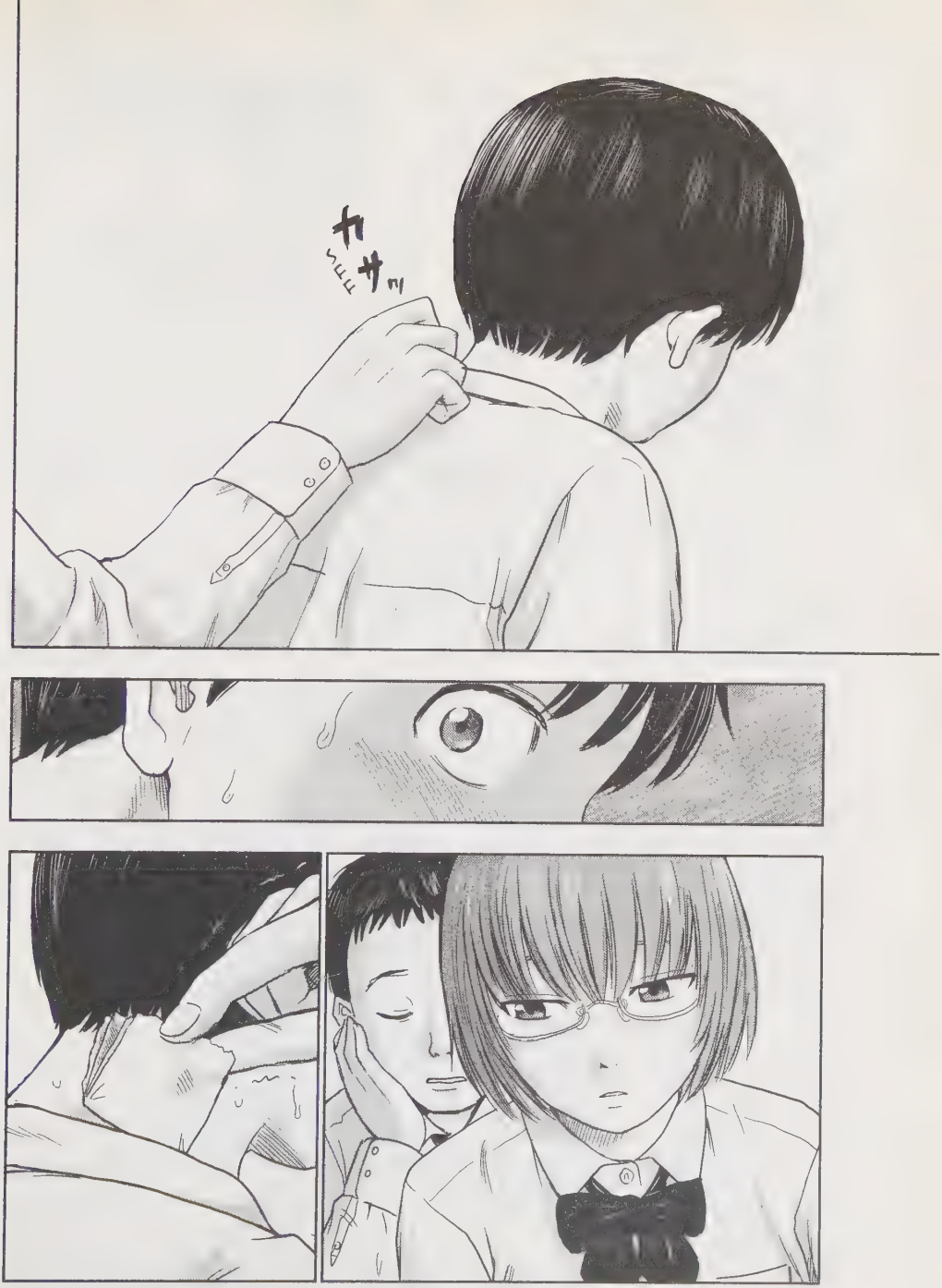

I CAN'T DO IT... NOT ME.
IT'S NO GOOD ...

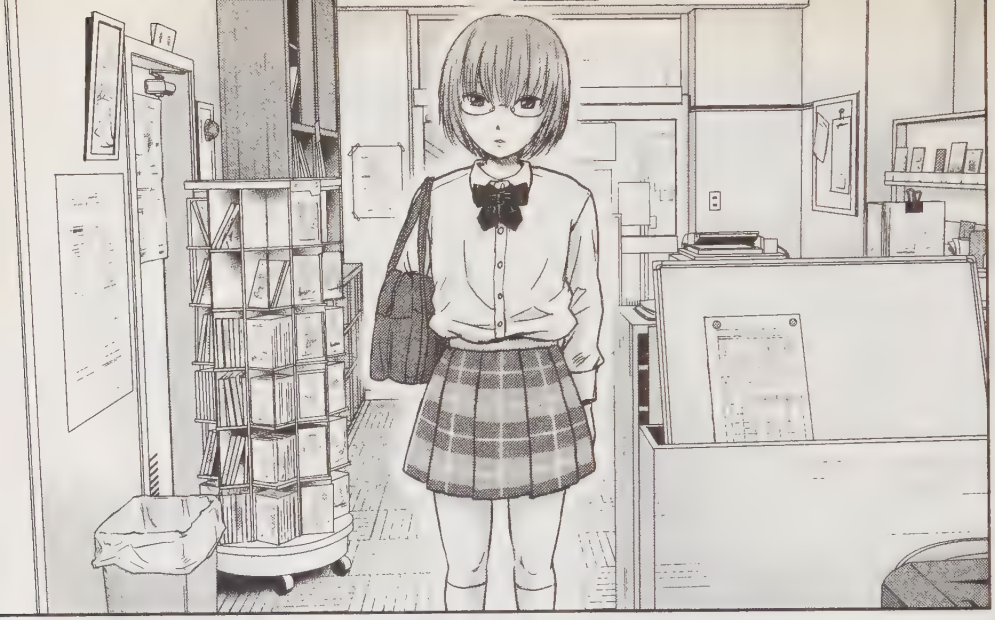

ペラ…

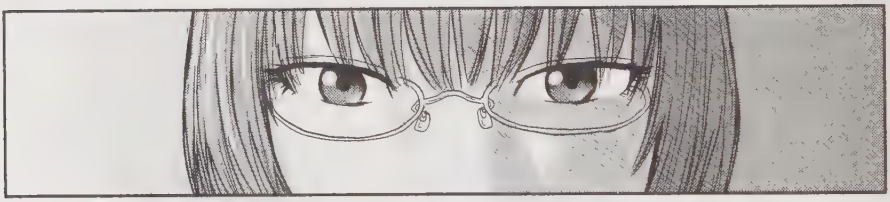

No.
Date
Come to the library after school.
Don't run away this time.

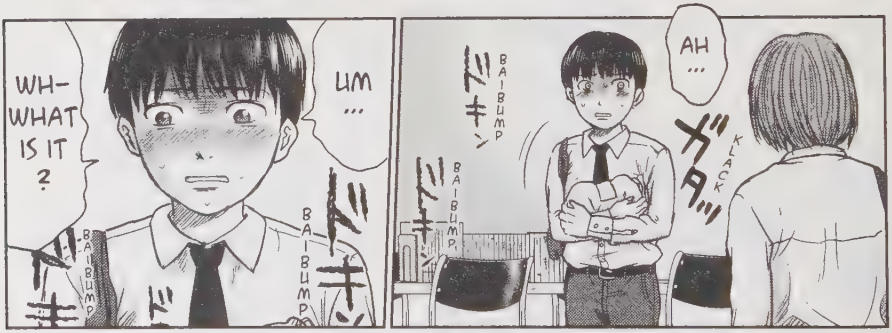

...!

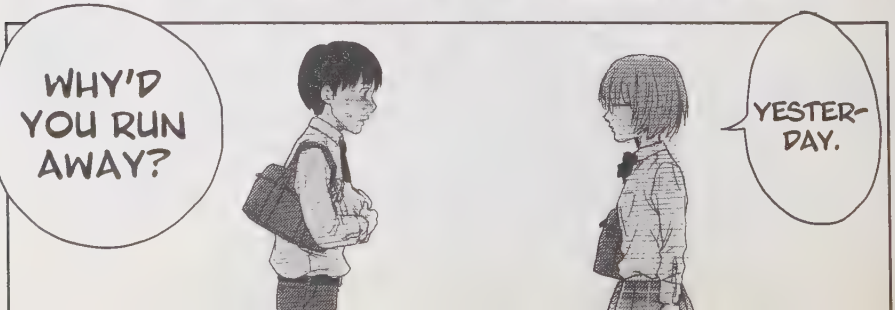


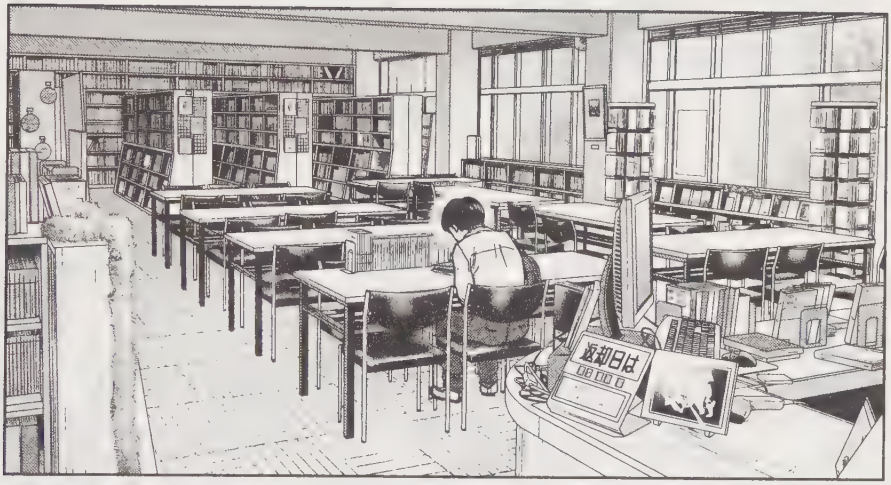

カサッ

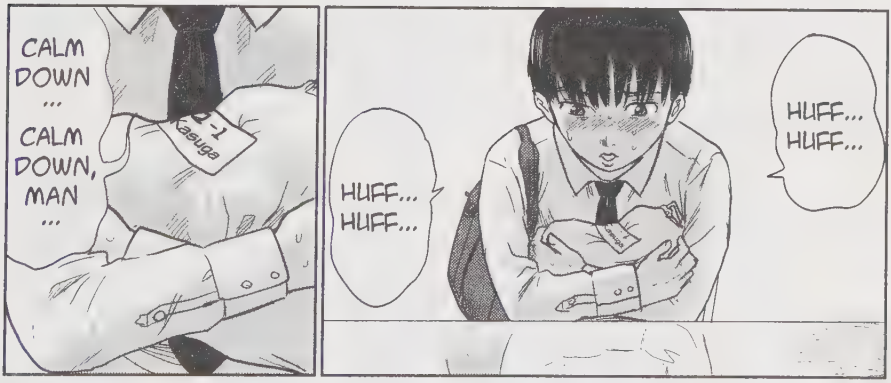


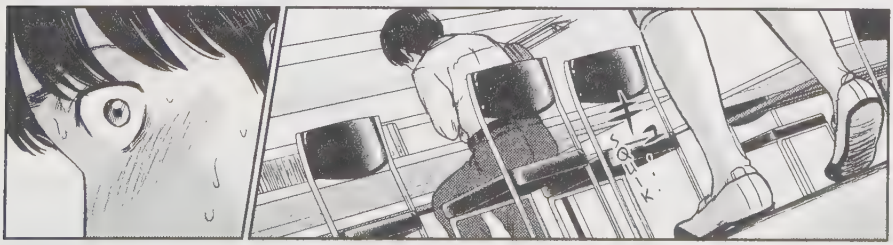


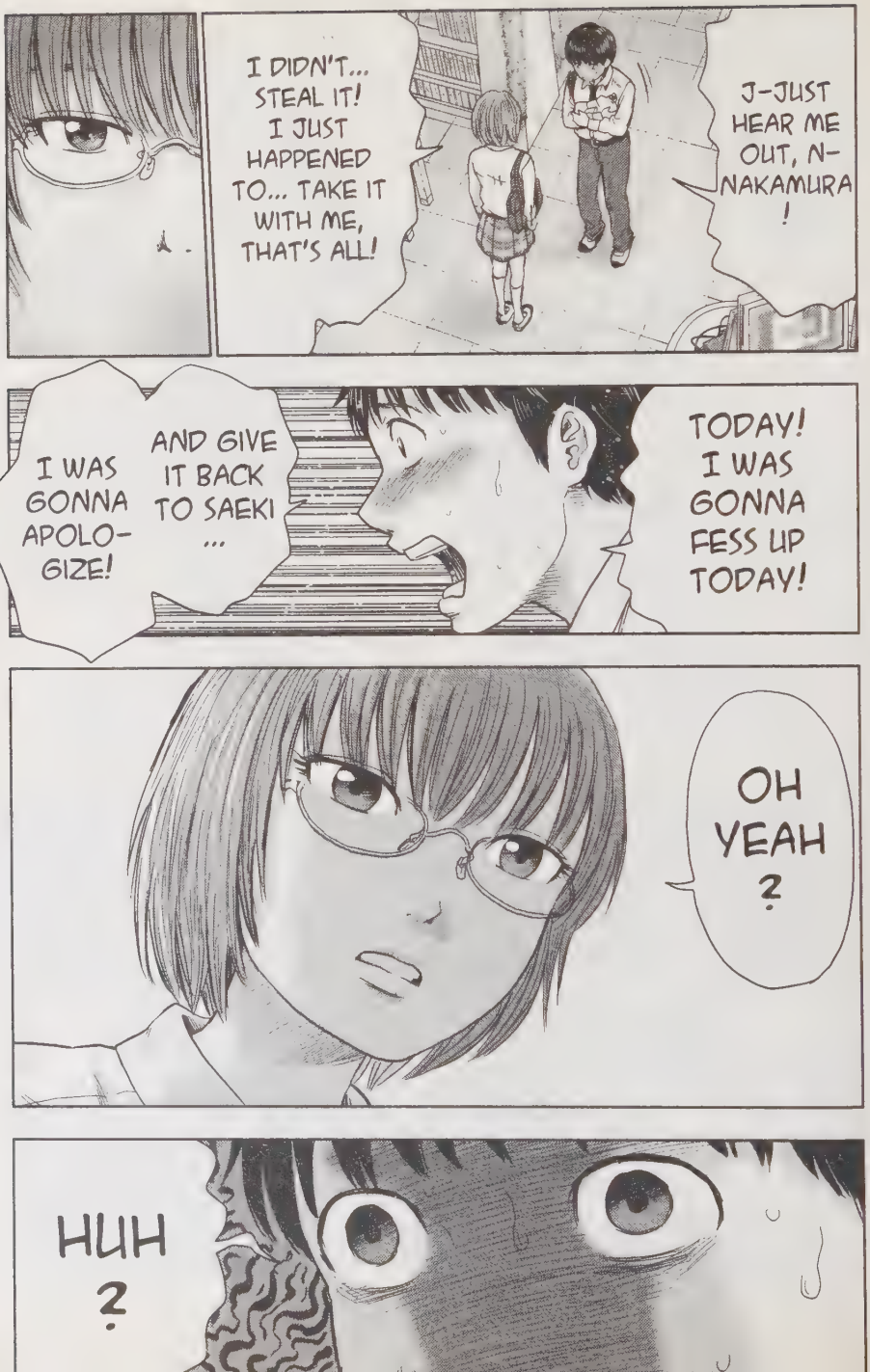

WH-WHAT IS IT?
UM...
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
AH...
KYAK

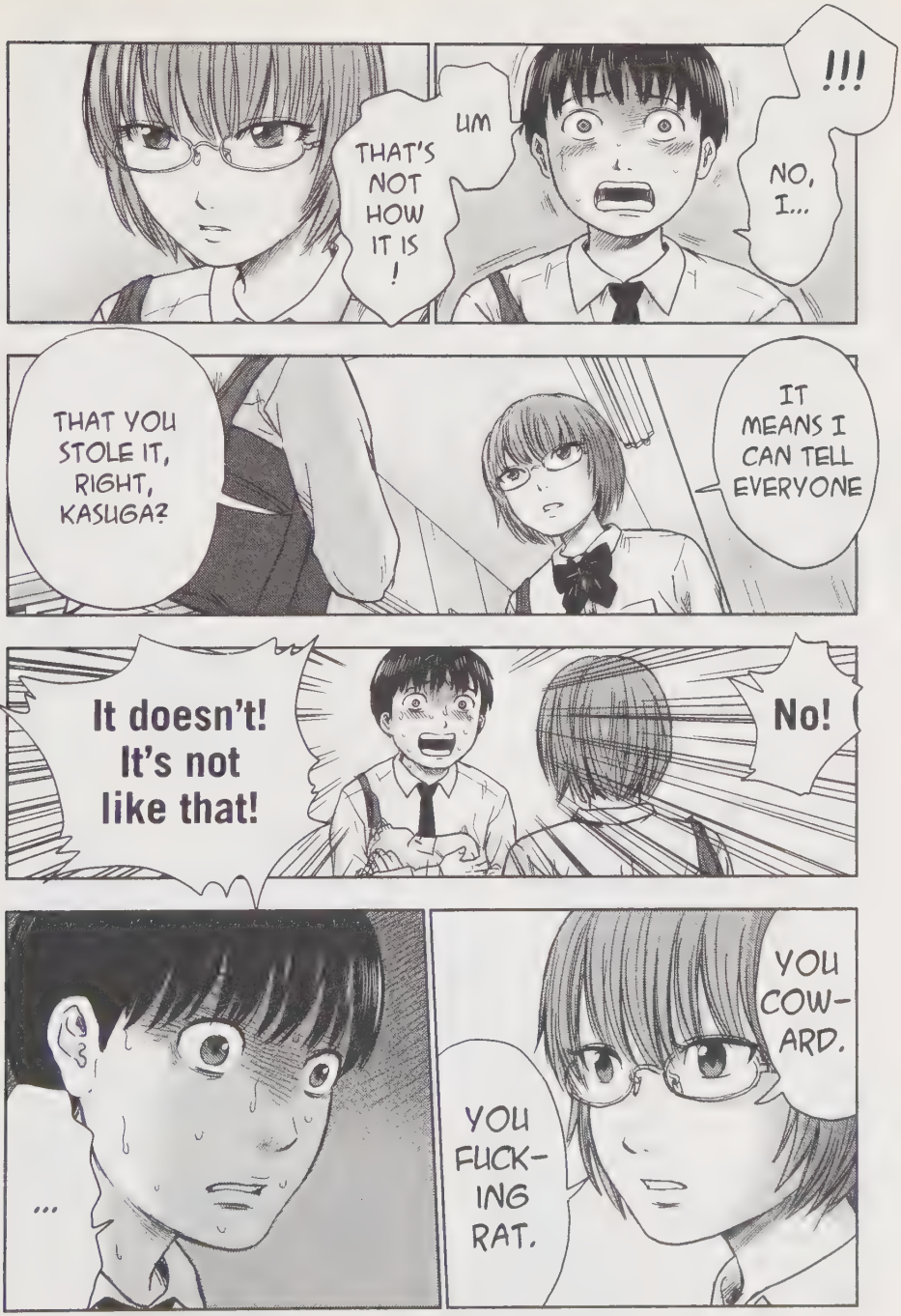

WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?
YESTER-DAY.

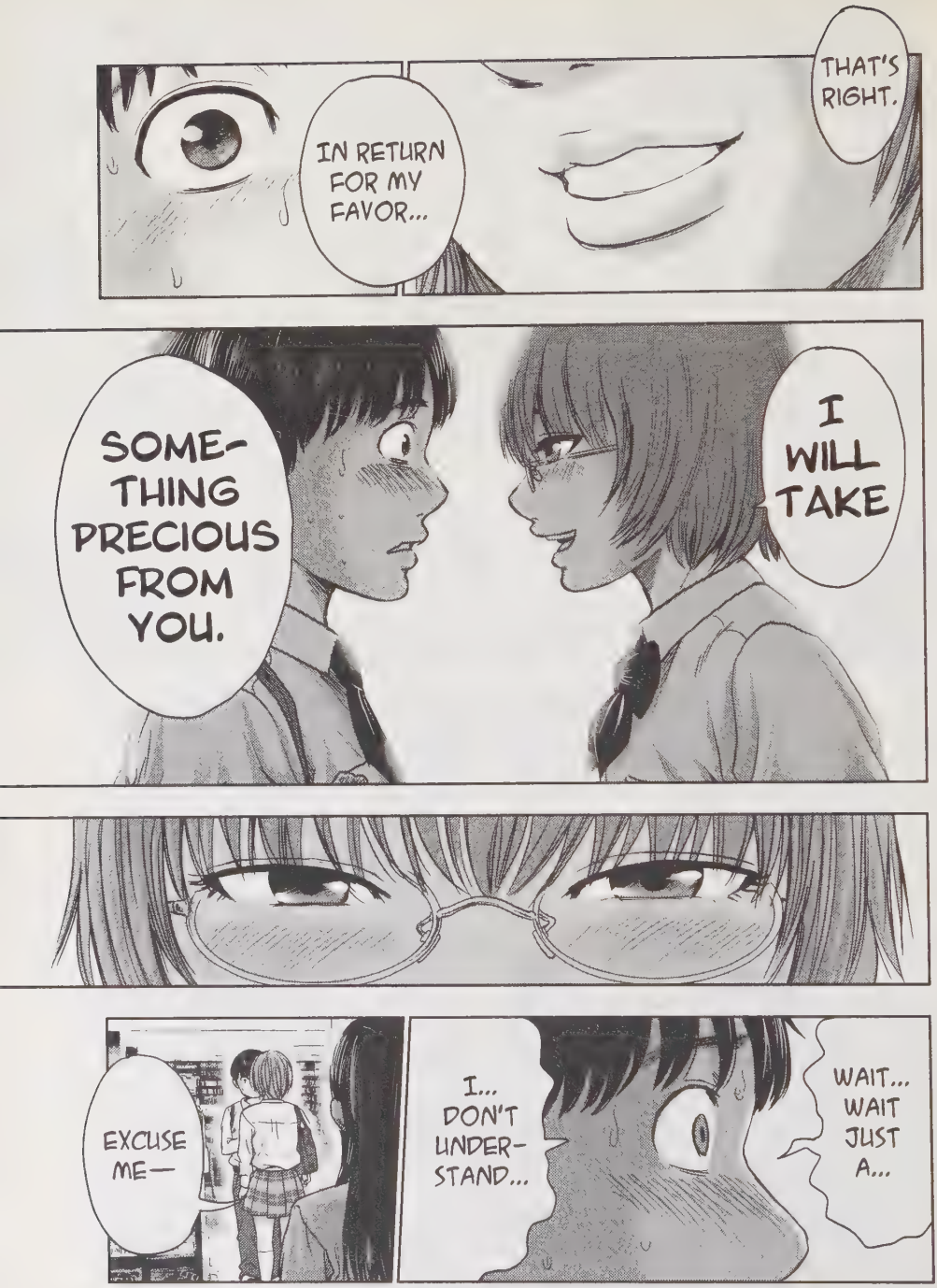

返却日は

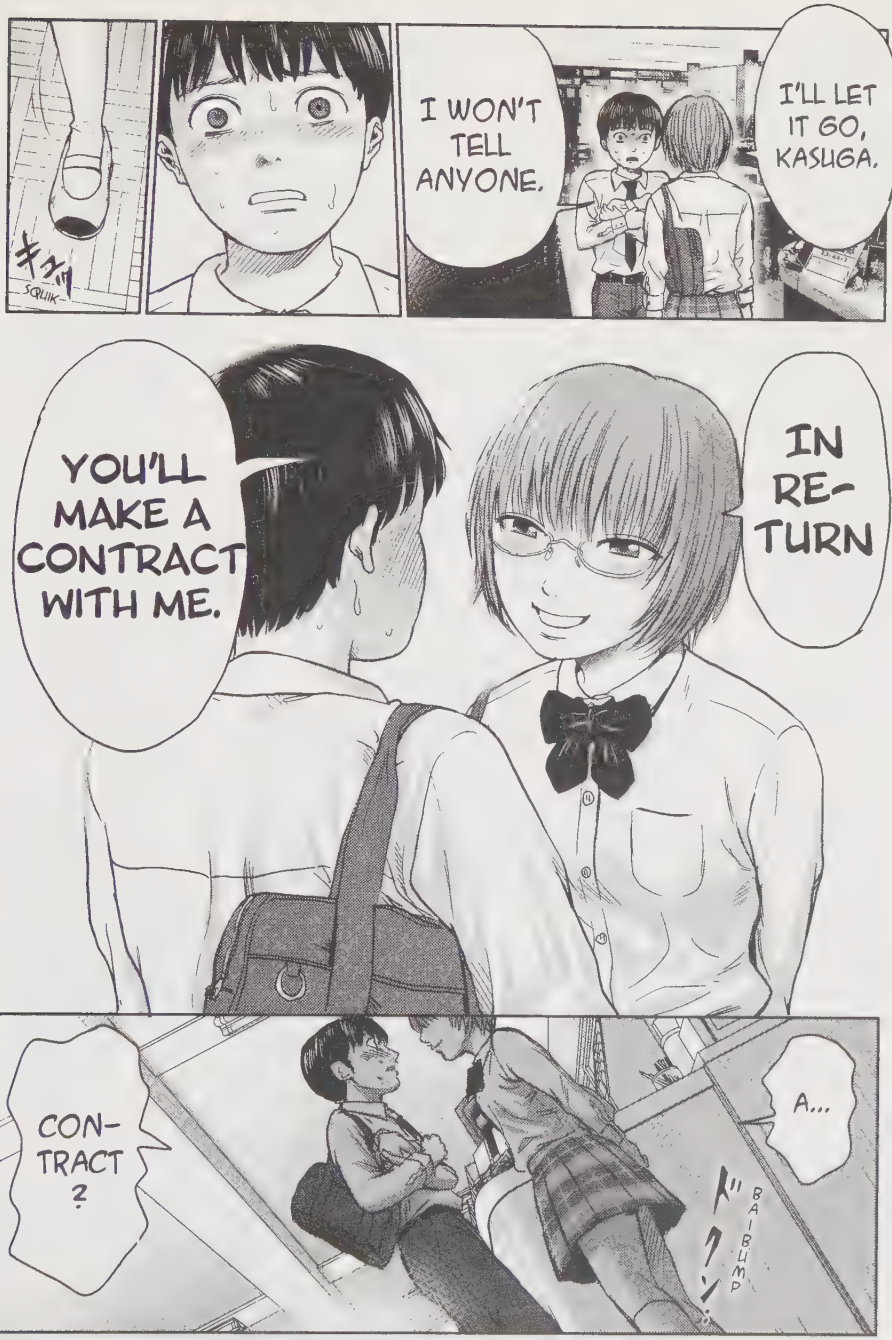

CALM DOWN ...
CALM DOWN, MAN ...
HUFF... HUFF...
HUFF... HUFF...

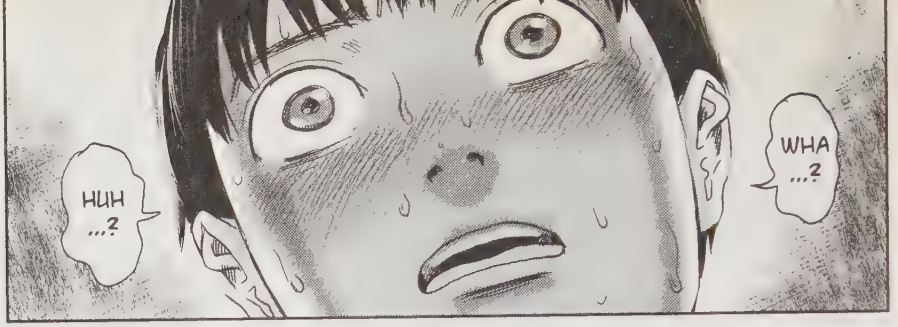



I DIDN'T... STEAL IT! I JUST HAPPENED TO... TAKE IT WITH ME, THAT'S ALL!
J-JUST HEAR ME OUT, N-NAKAMURA!
I WAS GONNA APOLO-GIZE!
AND GIVE IT BACK TO SAEKI ...
TODAY! I WAS GONNA FESS UP TODAY!
OH YEAH?
HUH?

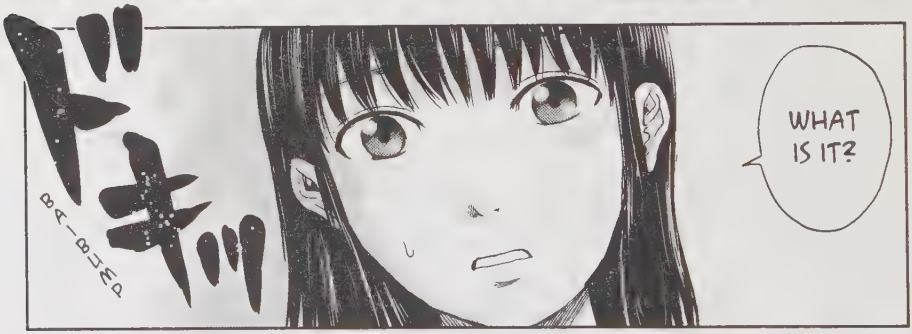

!!!
NO, I...
UM
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
IT MEANS I CAN TELL EVERYONE
THAT YOU STOLE IT, RIGHT, KASUGA?
No!
It doesn't! It's not like that!
YOU COW-ARD.
YOU FUCK-ING RAT.
...

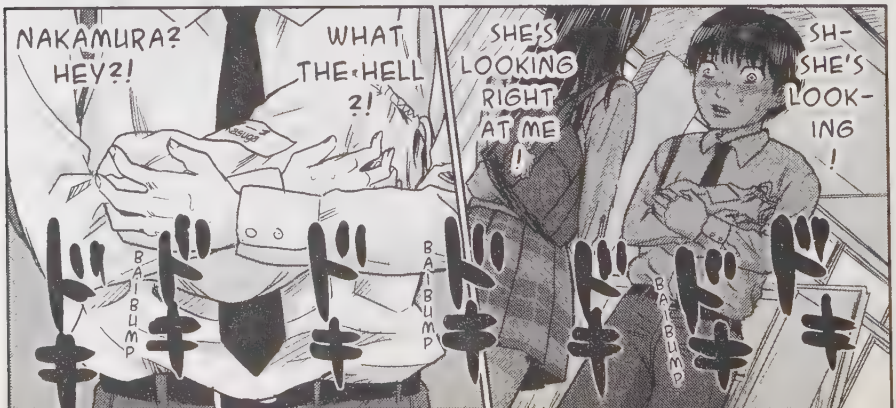

IN RETURN FOR MY FAVOR...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SOME-THING PRECIOUS FROM YOU.
I WILL TAKE
EXCUSE ME—
I... DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WAIT... WAIT JUST A...

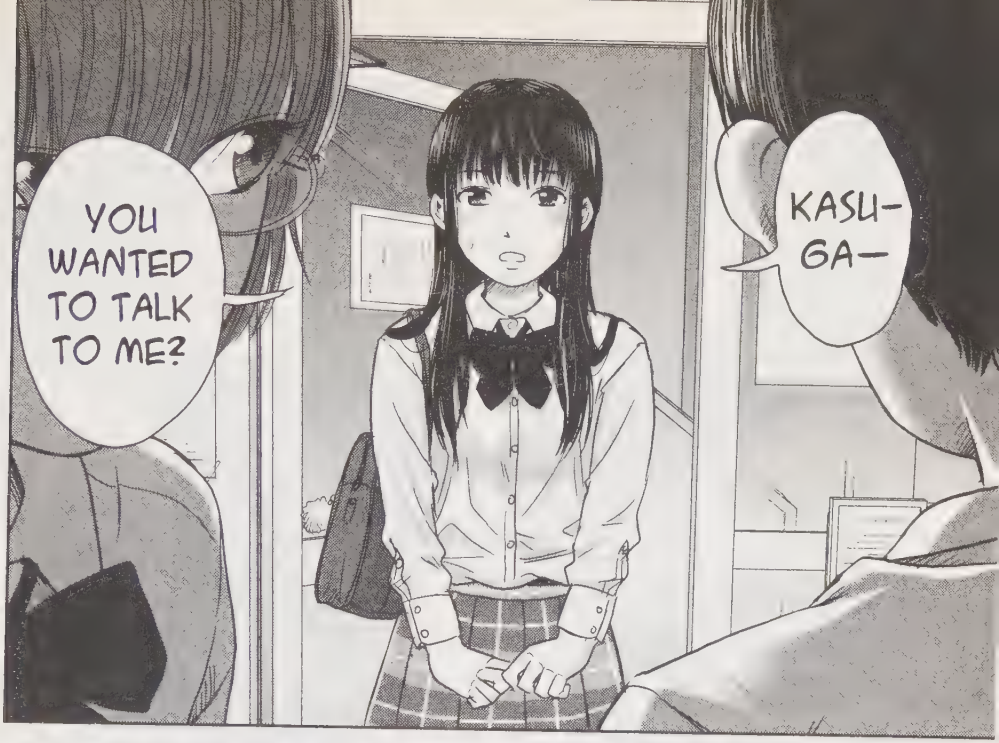

キュッ
SQUIK
I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
I'LL LET IT GO, KASUGA.
YOU'LL MAKE A CONTRACT WITH ME.
IN RE-TURN
CON-TRACT ?
A...
ドクン
BAIBUMP

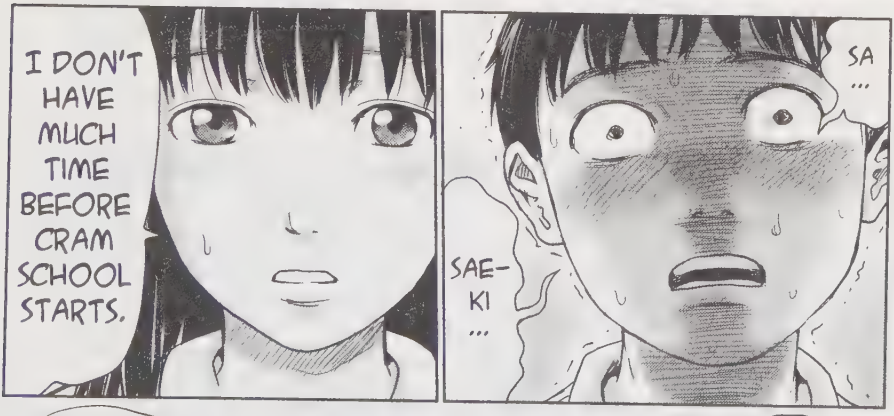

WHA ...?
HUH ...?

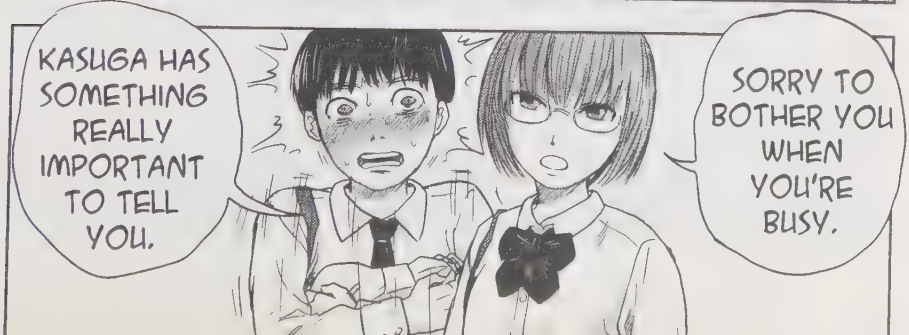
GO ON.
!!!
SHUV
HAAH ...


WHAT IS IT?
BA-BUMP


NAKAMURA? HEY?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!
SH-SHE'S LOOKING!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP


KASU-
GA—
YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?

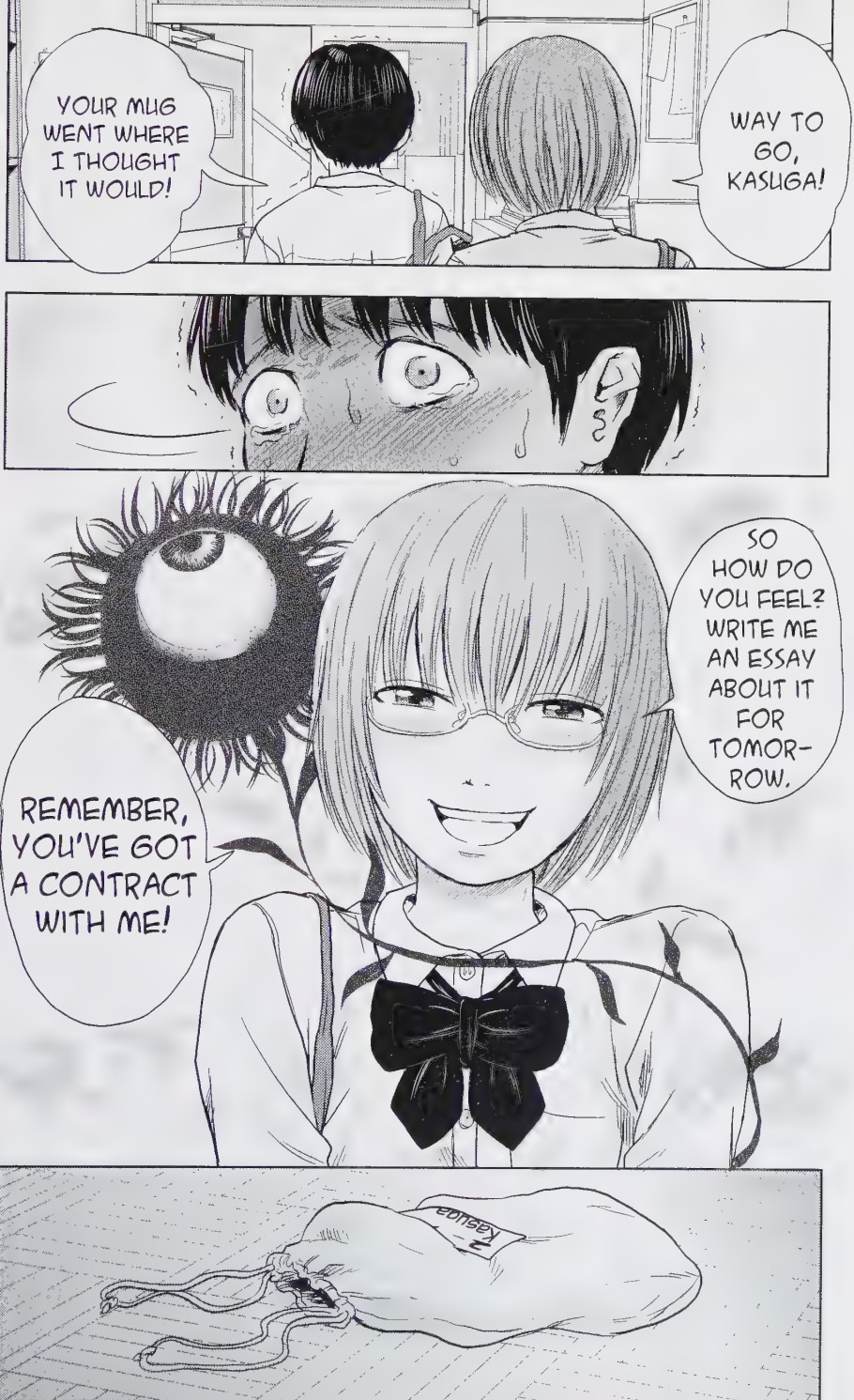

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE CRAM SCHOOL STARTS.
SA
...
SAE-
KI
...

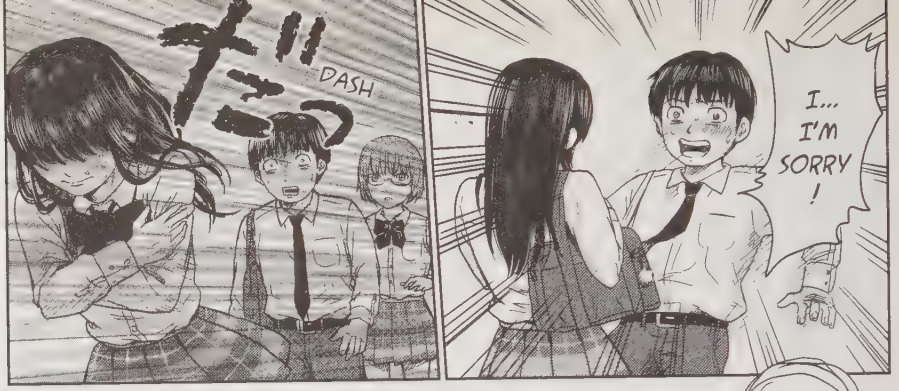

KASUGA HAS SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE BUSY.

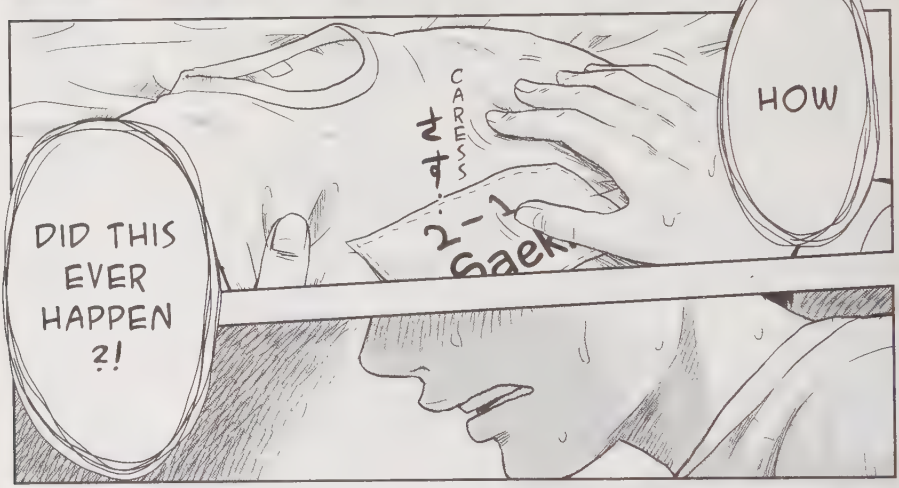
I... I'M SORRY!!
WAH —
WHUP
DASH
AH...
AH
AAH...
BAM
たったったっ・・・
TUP
TUP

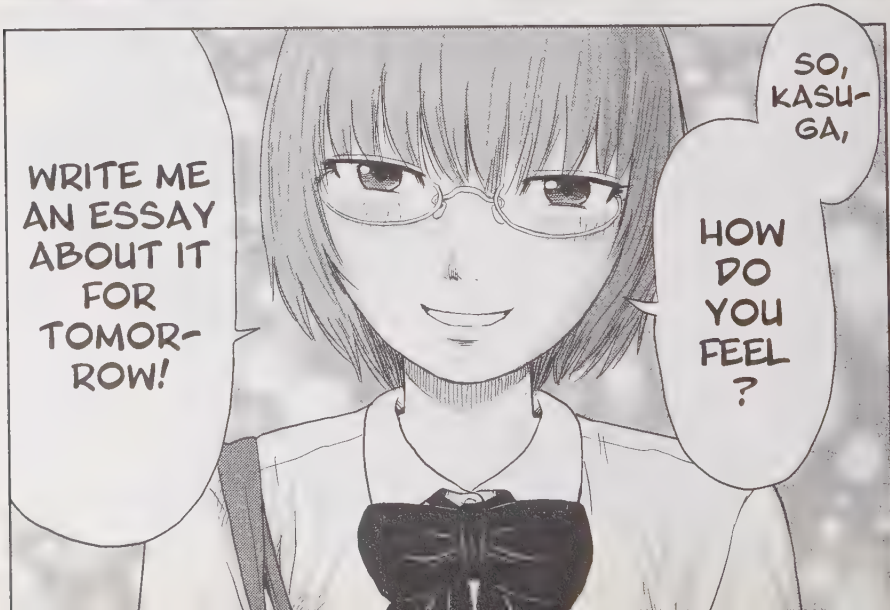
SHUVV
ぽふっ
FWUMP
AH...
WHUMP

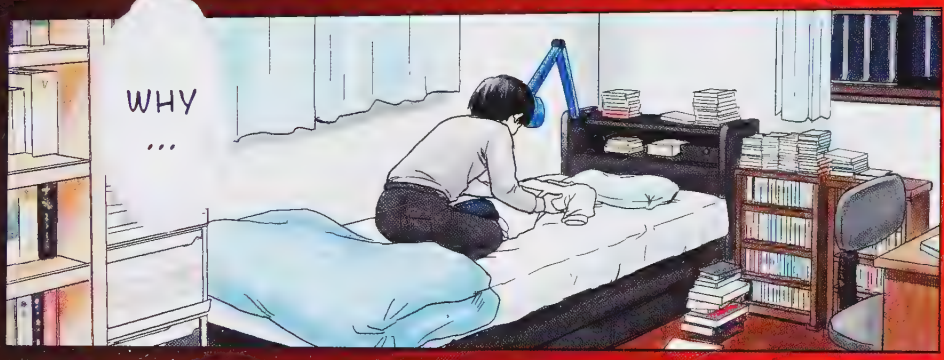
Chapter 3:
Cause for Blackmail

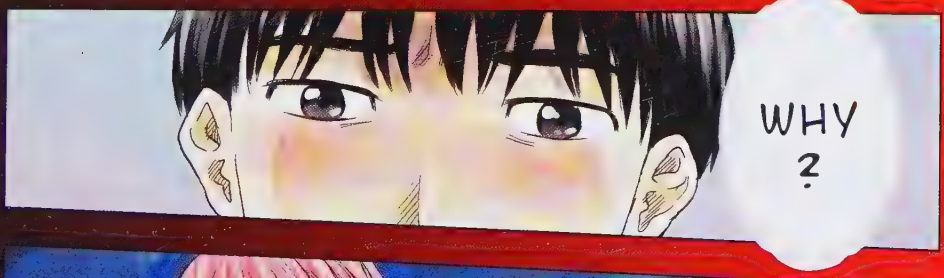

YOUR MUG WENT WHERE I THOUGHT IT WOULD!
WAY TO GO, KASUGA!
SO HOW DO YOU FEEL? WRITE ME AN ESSAY ABOUT IT FOR TOMOR-ROW.
REMEMBER, YOU'VE GOT A CONTRACT WITH ME!
2 Kasuga


DASH
I... I'M SORRY!

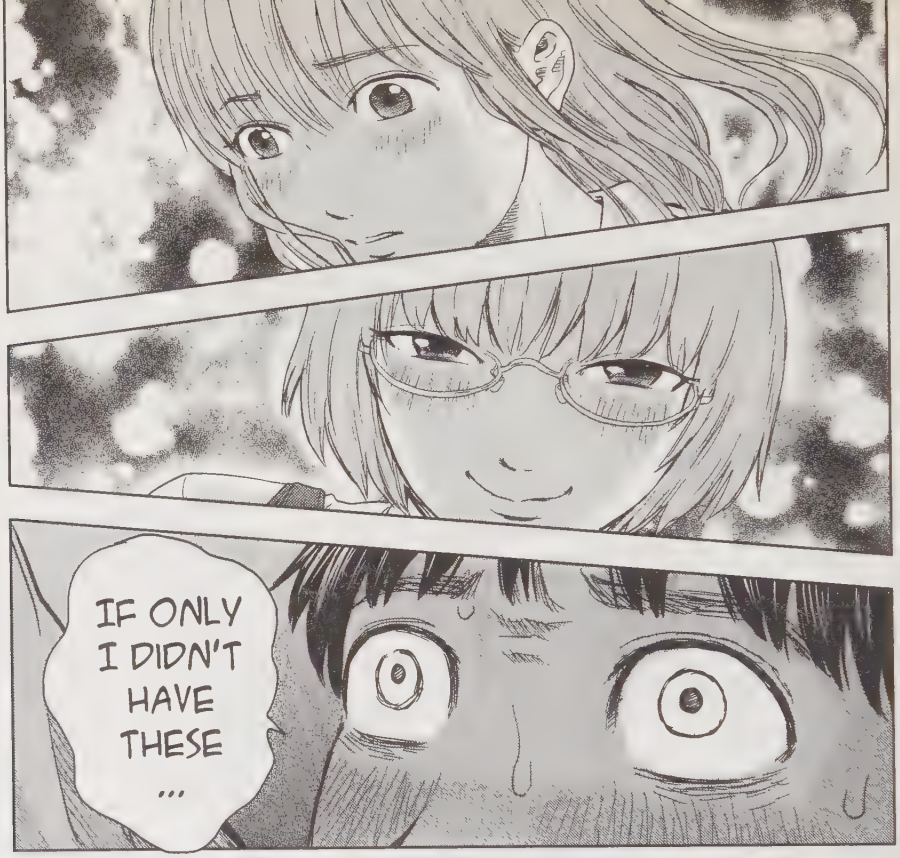

CARESS
HOW
DID THIS EVER HAPPEN?!

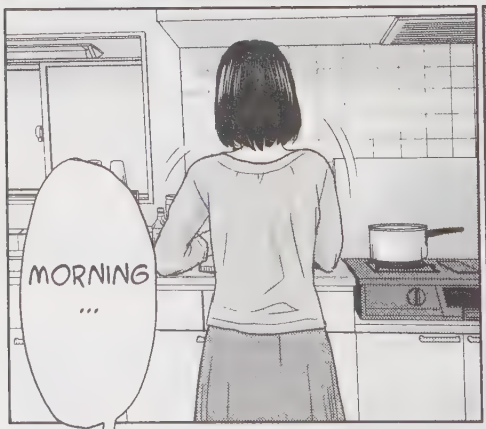

SO, KASUGA,
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WRITE ME AN ESSAY ABOUT IT FOR TOMORROW!

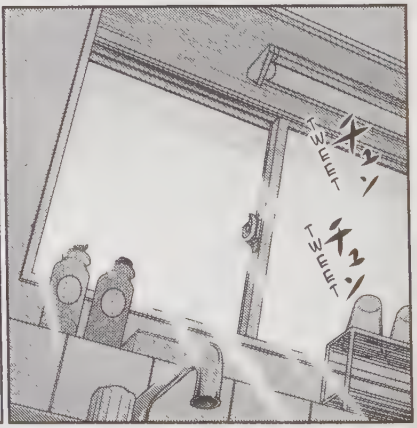

WHY
...

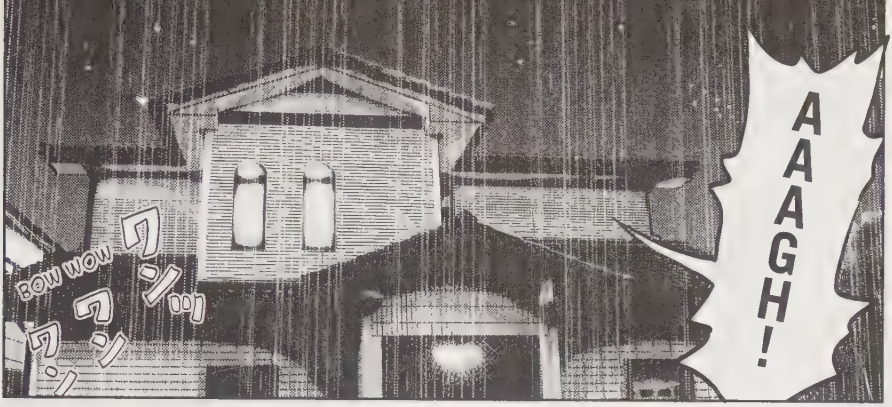

WHY
?

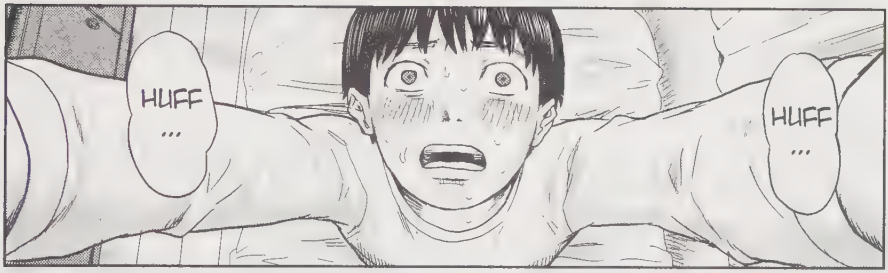
ぽふっ
PAFU

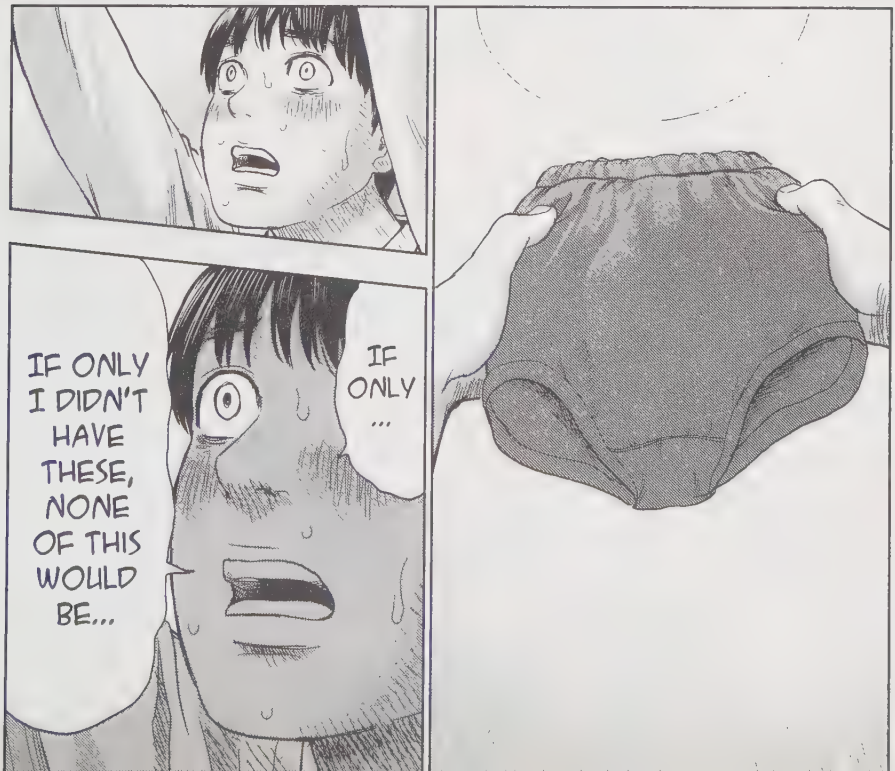

IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE THESE ...


MORNING ...


ジーッ
ジーッ


AAAGH!
BOW WOW ワン ワン ワン

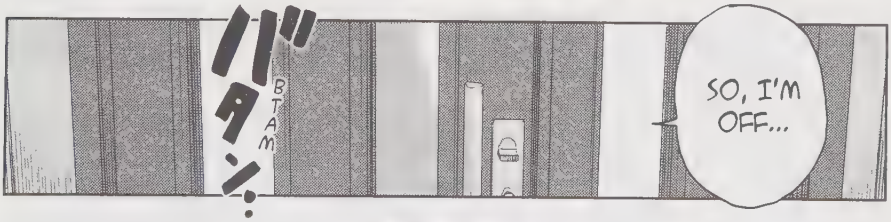

HUFF ...
HUFF ...


IF ONLY ...
IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE THESE, NONE OF THIS WOULD BE...

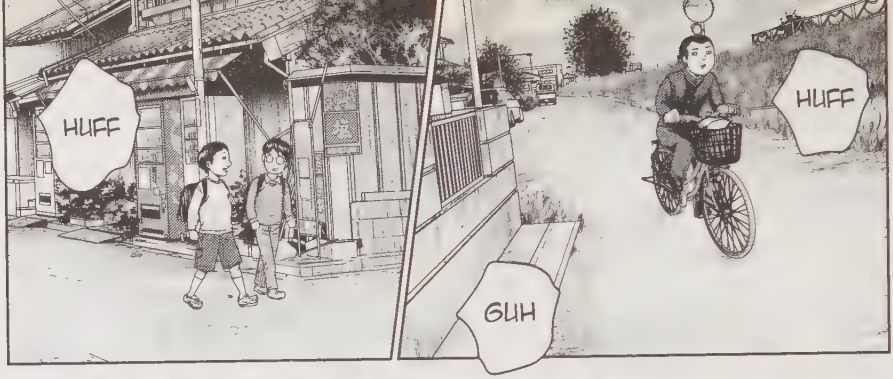
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ALL OF THIS WILL BE OVER!
I'LL THROW IT AWAY! AND THEN
HUFF
HUFF
!!

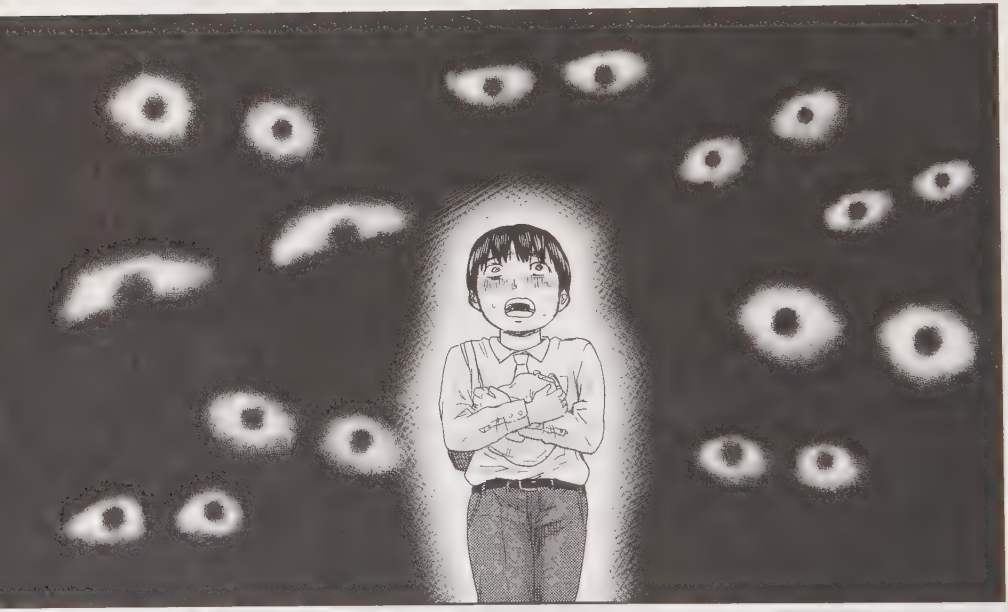
HEY, MOM ...
I DON'T NEED BREAK-FAST.
I'M JUST GOING TO SCHOOL.
WHAT?

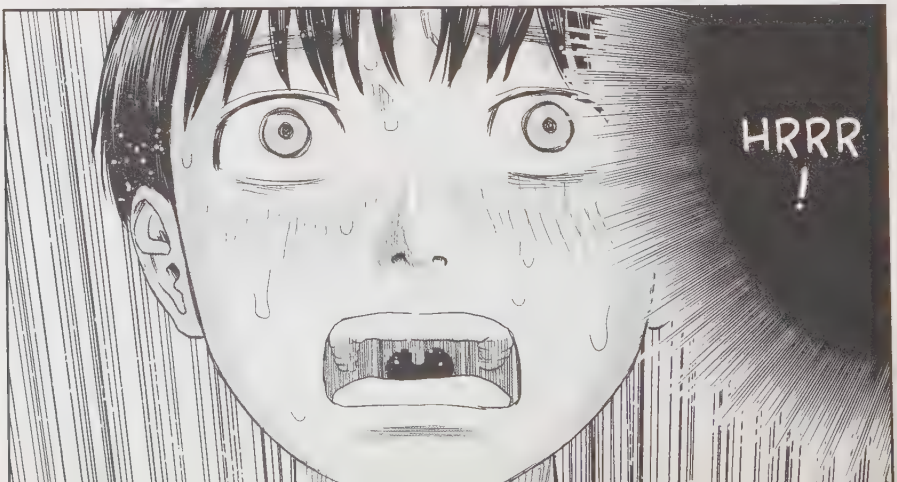
WHY? IS THERE SOME EVENT?
YEAH ... UM, IT'S JUST ...
IT'D BE NICE TO GET THERE EARLY, FOR ONCE.


SO, I'M OFF...
バタン!
BTAM

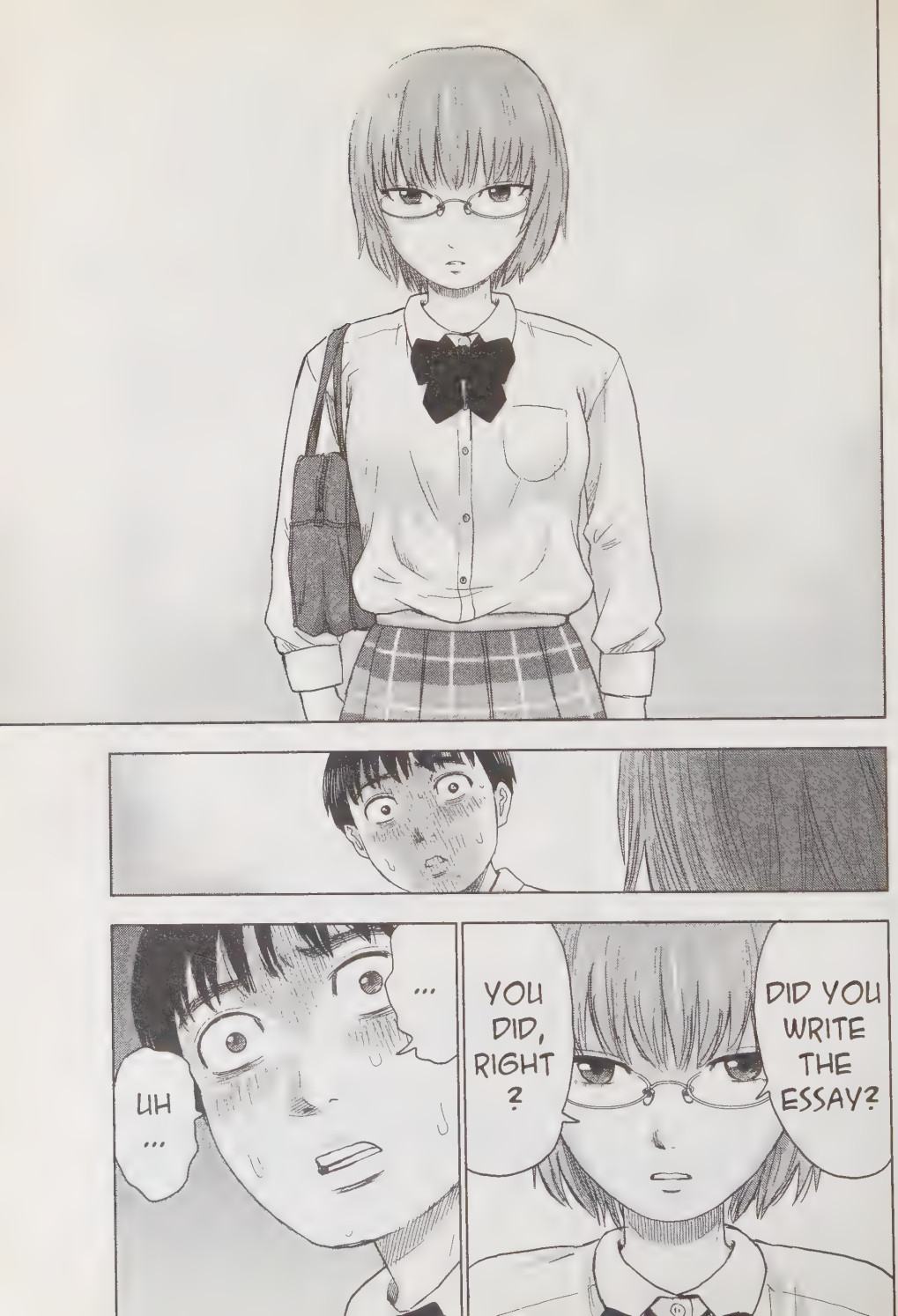
TAKAO SEEMS
STRANGE, LATELY.

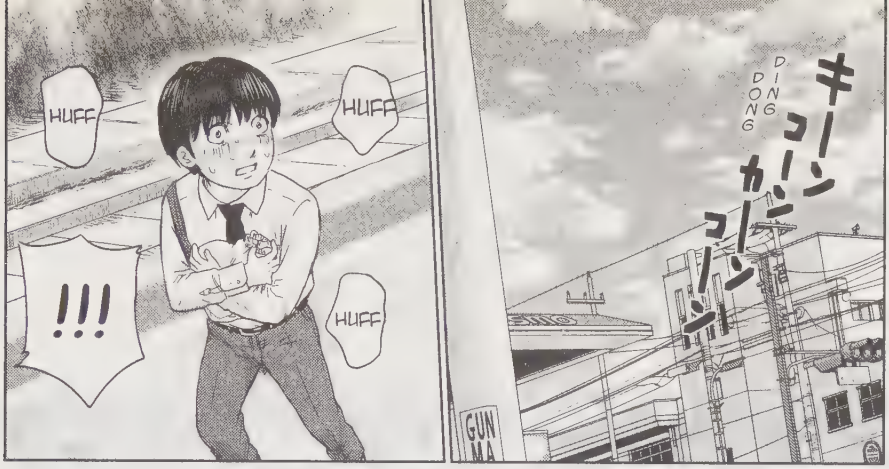

HUFF
HUFF
GUH

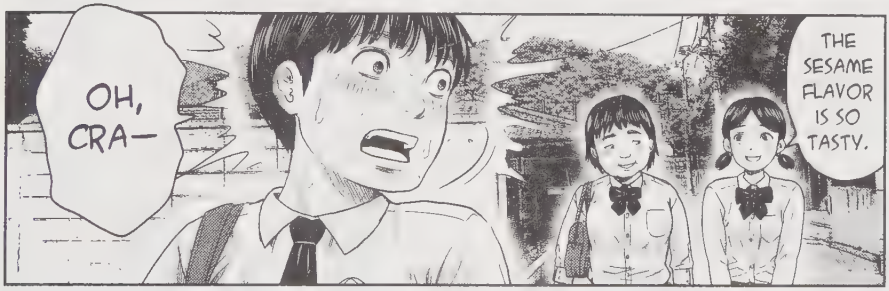



HRRR
!

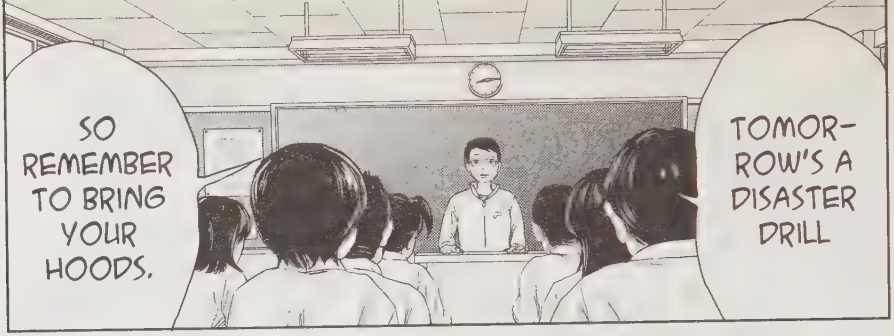
HUFF
HUFF
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
FUP
Kasuga
FWISSH
FWISSH
!!
GUH!
DASH
?
HUFF
HUFF
AND THEN—
OH, MY!

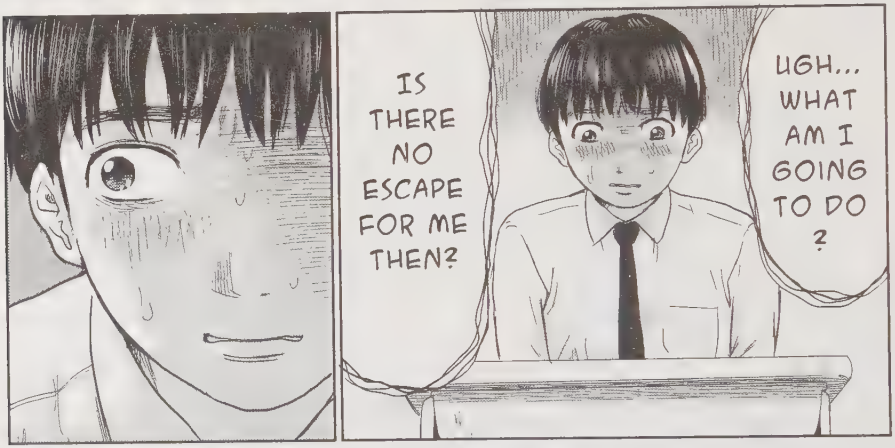

DID YOU WRITE THE ESSAY?
YOU DID, RIGHT?
...
UH ...

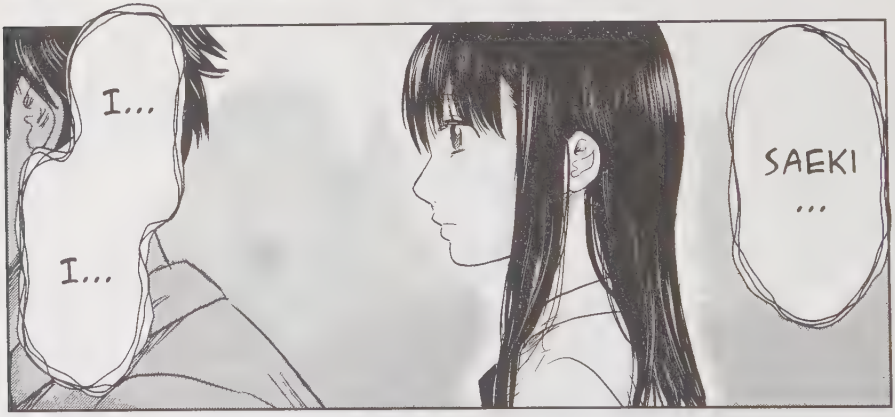

HUFF
HUFF
!!!
HUFF
キーン コーン カーン コーン
DING DONG
GUN MA

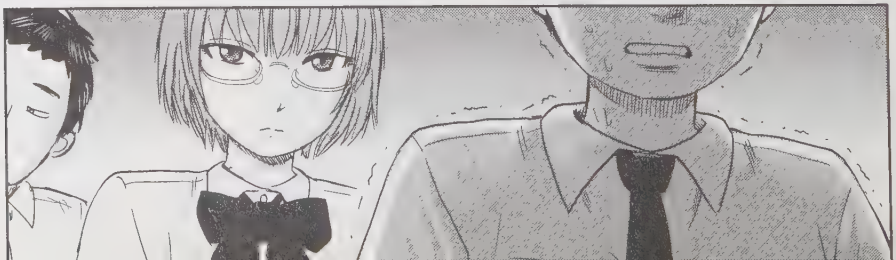

OH, CRA—
THE SESAME FLAVOR IS SO TASTY.

KA-SUGA.

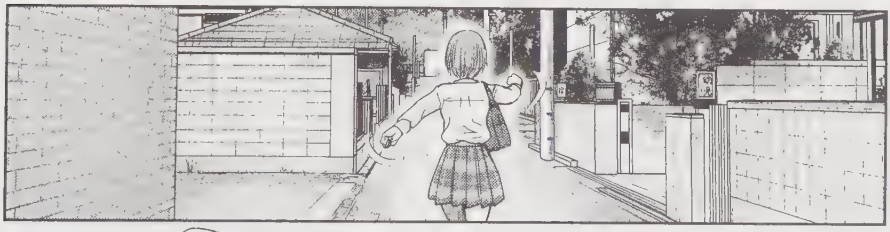

TOMOR-
ROW'S A
DISASTER
DRILL
SO
REMEMBER
TO BRING
YOUR
HOODS.

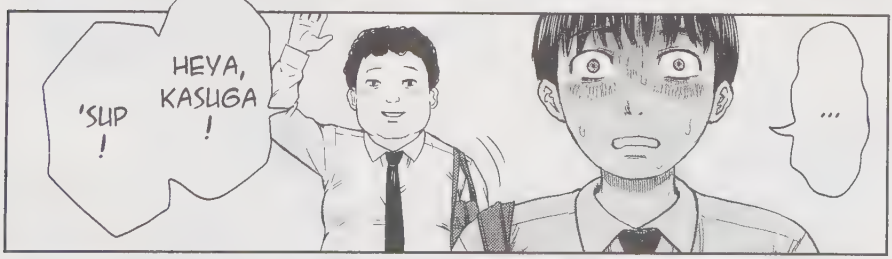

UGH...
WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO
?
IS
THERE
NO
ESCAPE
FOR ME
THEN?

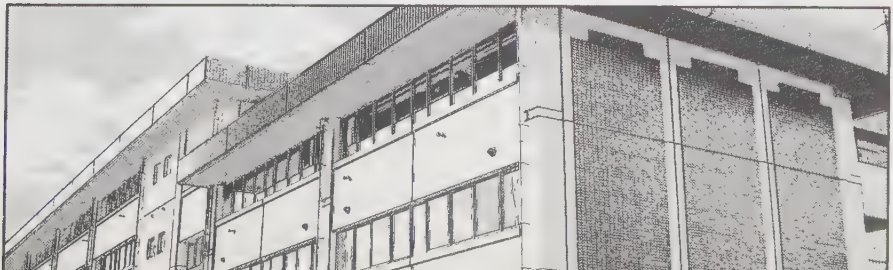

SAEKI
...
I...
I...

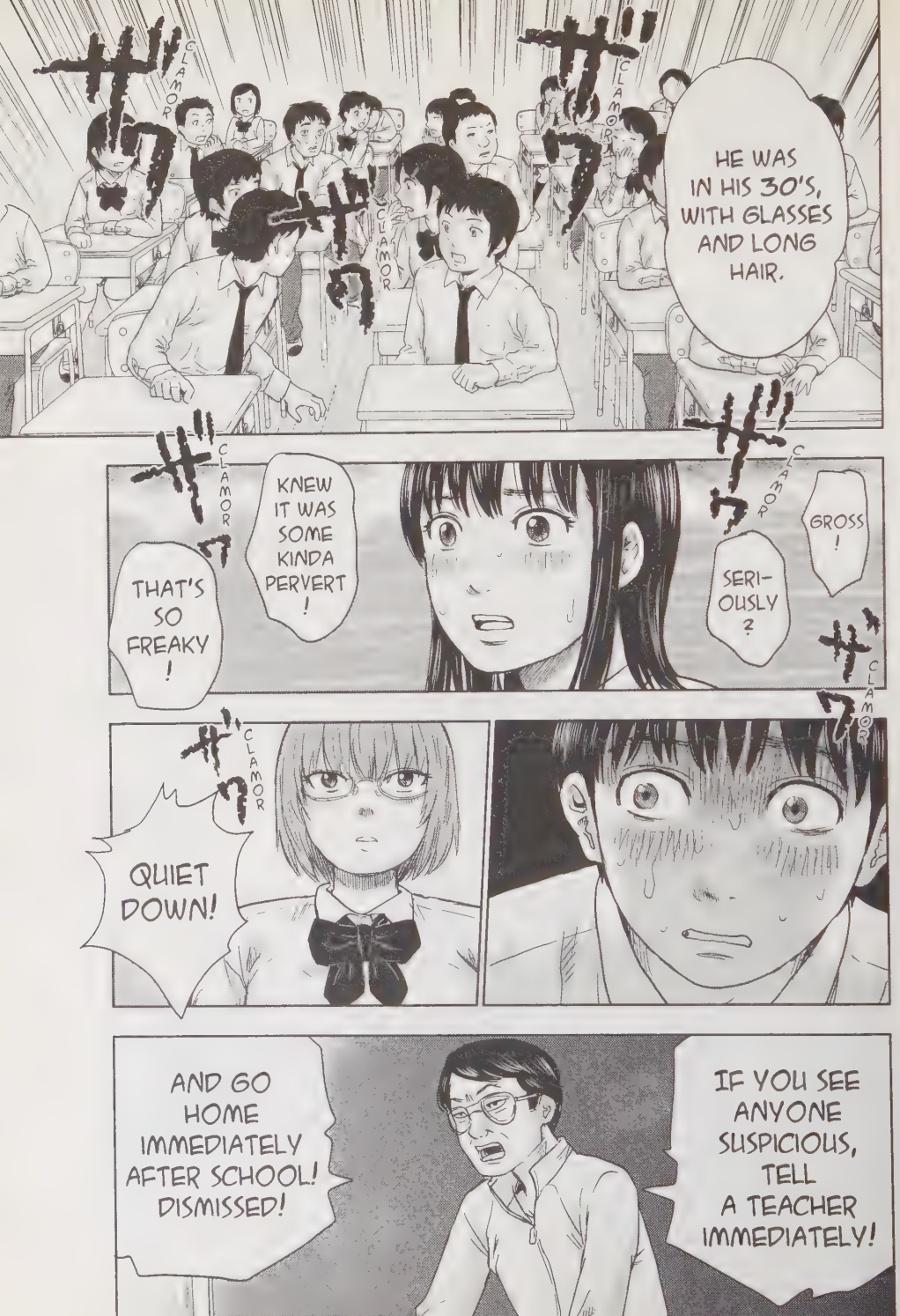


COME TO THE LIBRARY AGAIN.
AFTER SCHOOL

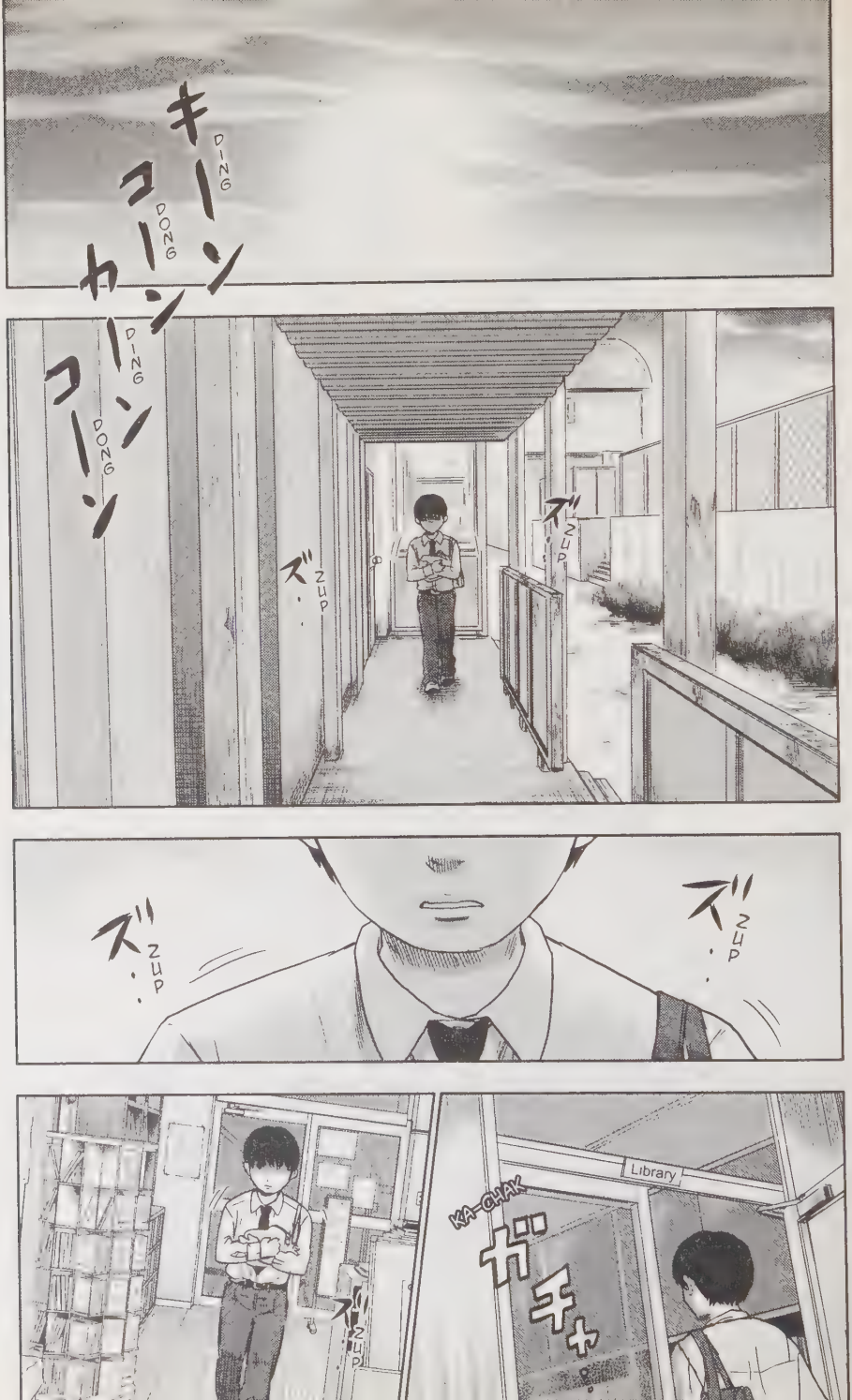



'SUP !
HEYA, KASUGA !
...



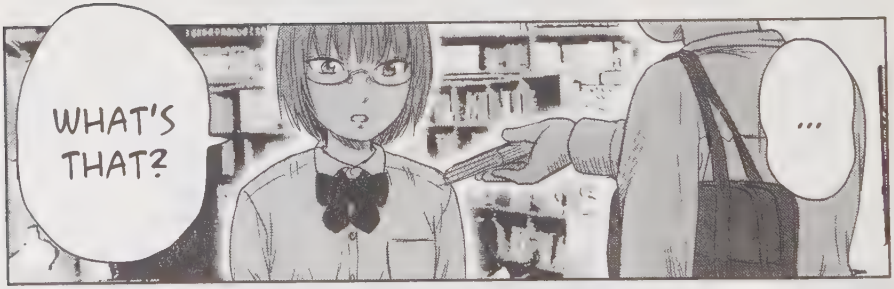

CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
HE WAS IN HIS 30'S, WITH GLASSES AND LONG HAIR.
CLAMOR
KNEW IT WAS SOME KINDA PERVERT!
THAT'S SO FREAKY!
CLAMOR
SERI-OUSLY?
GROSS!
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
QUIET DOWN!
AND GO HOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCHOOL! DISMISSED!
IF YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS, TELL A TEACHER IMMEDIATELY!

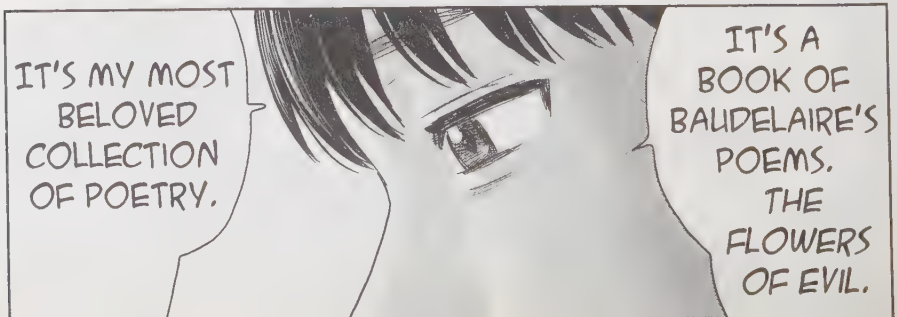
...
THERE'S ONE MORE ANNOUNCE-MENT.
ALSO —
WELL, APPAR-ENTLY THAT SAME DAY...
WE DISCUSSED SAEKI'S UNIFORM BEING STOLEN, REMEMBER?
one of our students saw a strange man wandering around the school.


キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DING
コーン
DONG
ズ
ZUP
ズ・・
ZUP
ズ・・
ZUP
ズ
ZUP
Library
KA-CHAK
ガチャ
ズ
ZUP

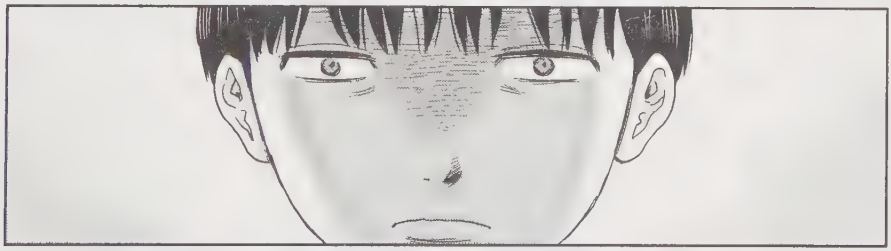
MUTTER
MUTTER
OH GOD, WHAT IF HE DOES STUFF TO ME?
THEY GOTTA CATCH HIM!
HE CAME INTO THE SCHOOL?
MAYBE A PEDO!
SOME KIND OF CRAZY CREEP?!
KA-SUGA?
THINGS'RE REALLY GETTING INTER-ESTING!
KA-SUGA!
...
C'MON, NANAKO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

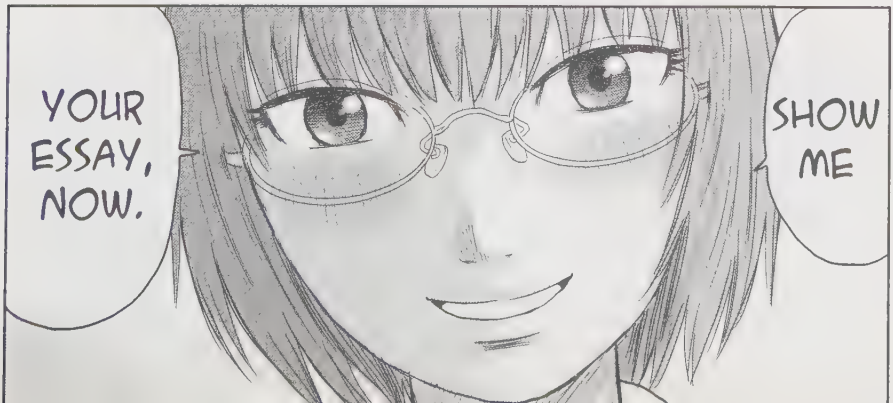
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation: Daigaku Horiguchi
SHU

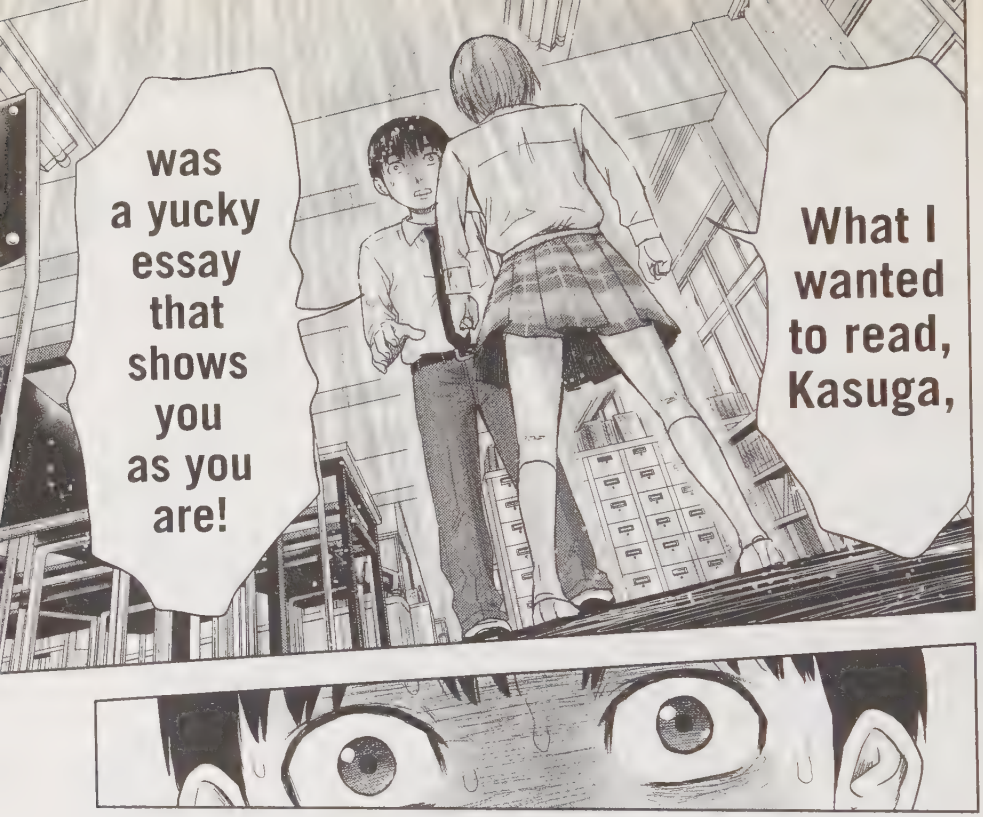

WHAT'S THAT?
...

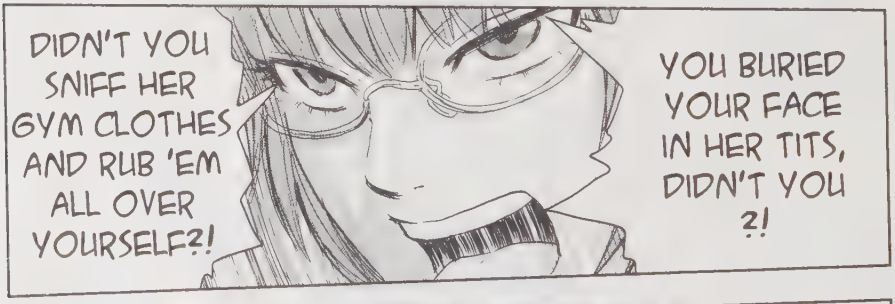

IT'S MY MOST BELOVED COLLECTION OF POETRY.
IT'S A BOOK OF BAUDELAIRE'S POEMS. THE FLOWERS OF EVIL.

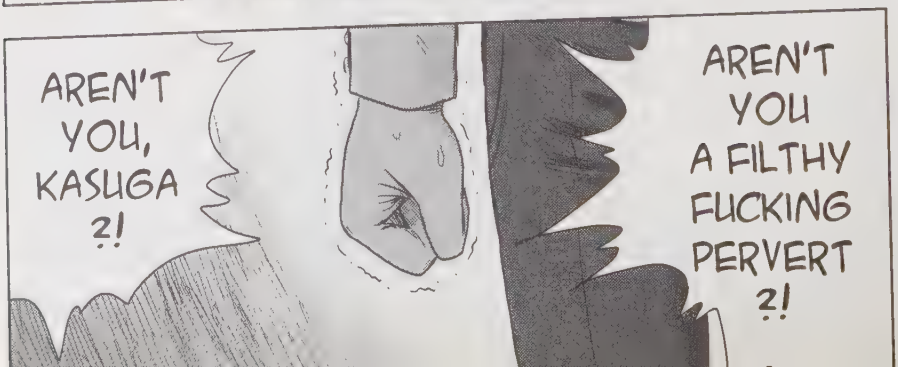
HEY, KASUGA.



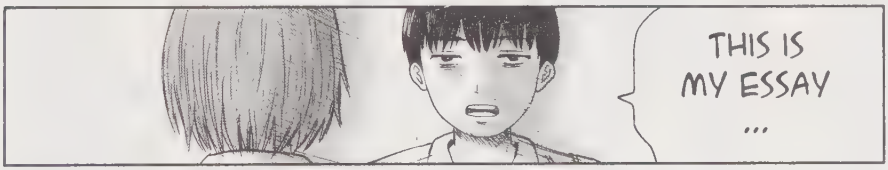

YOUR ESSAY, NOW.
SHOW ME


was a yucky essay that shows you as you are!
What I wanted to read, Kasuga,


DIDN'T YOU SNIFF HER GYM CLOTHES AND RUB 'EM ALL OVER YOURSELF?!
YOU BURIED YOUR FACE IN HER TITS, DIDN'T YOU?!

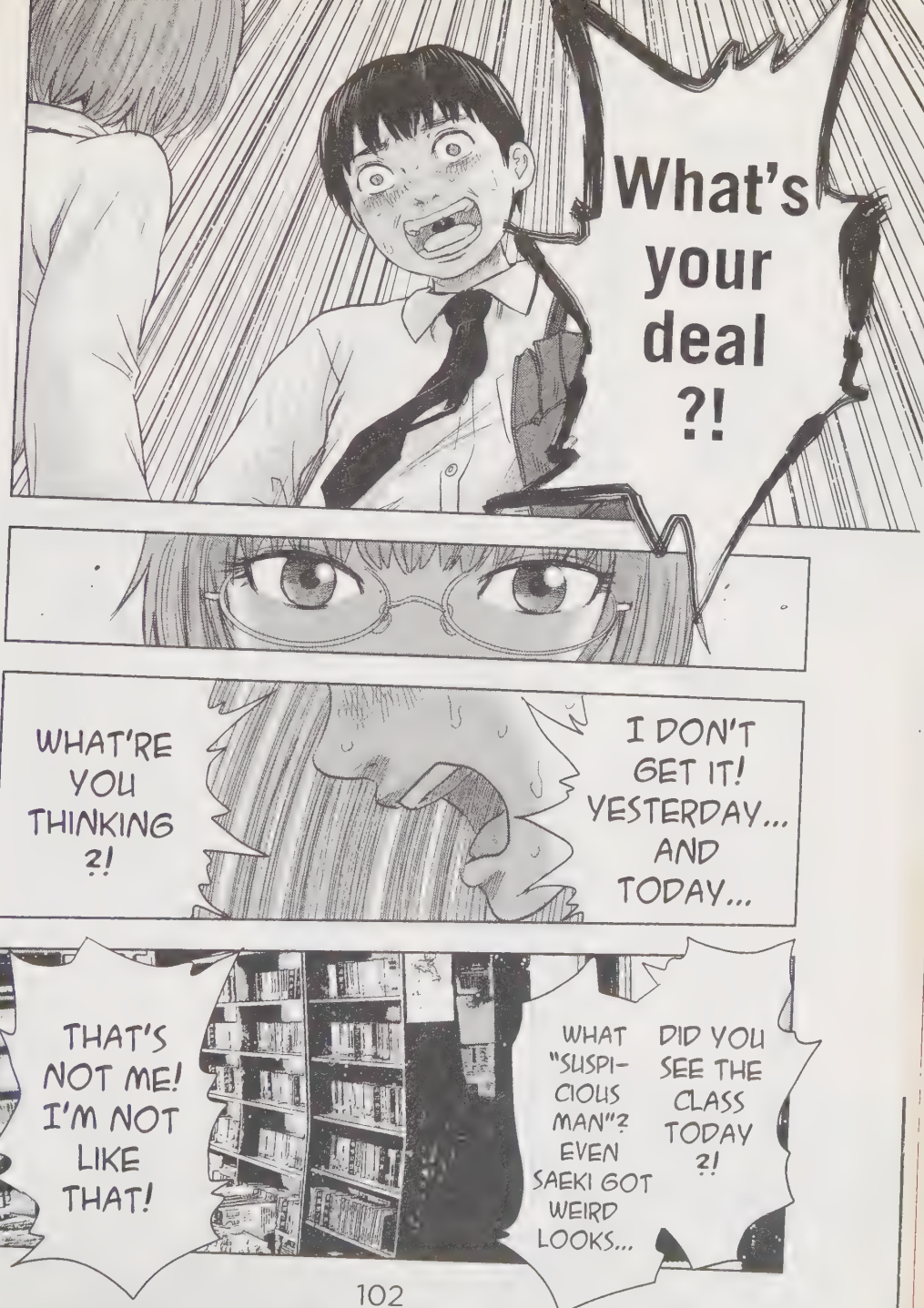

AREN'T YOU, KASUGA?!
AREN'T YOU A FILTHY FUCKING PERVERT?!

THIS BOOK IS ME.
A PHILOSOPHY THAT THE MUNDANE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN COULDN'T HOPE TO UNDER-STAND!
DARKNESS SWIRLS WITHIN THIS BOOK.


THIS IS MY ESSAY ...

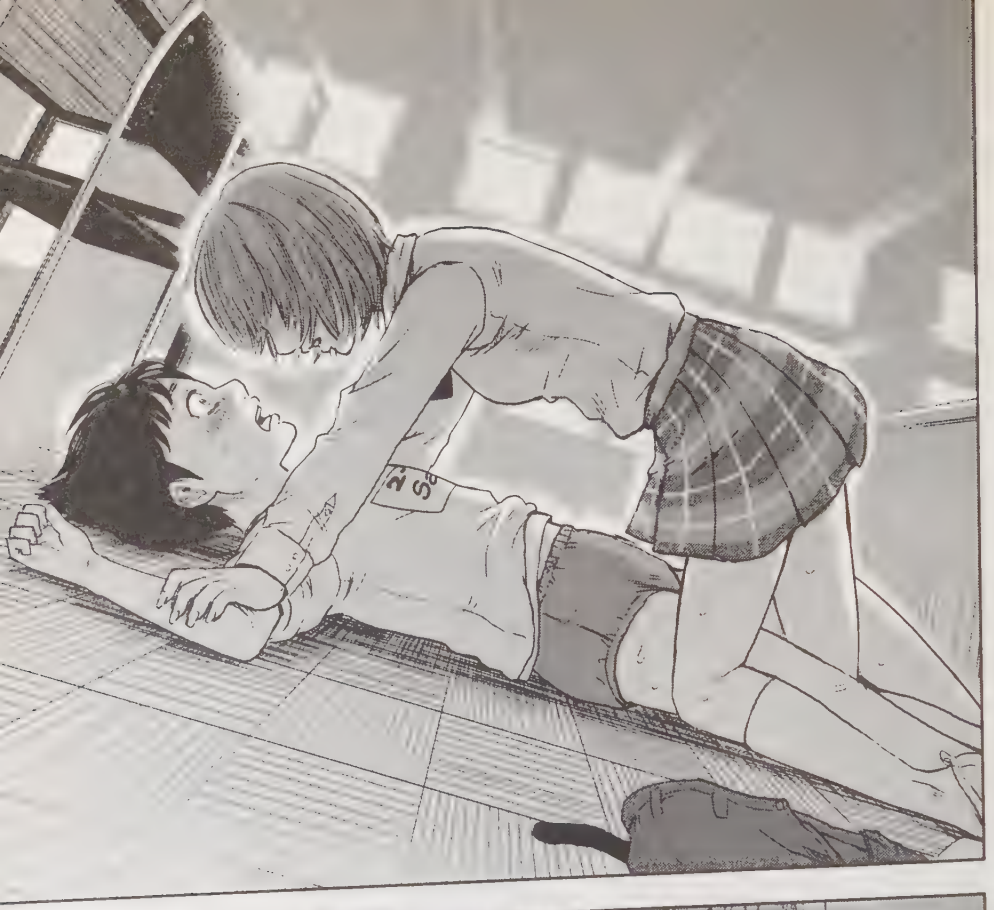
SWAKK
Shut up, shitbug.

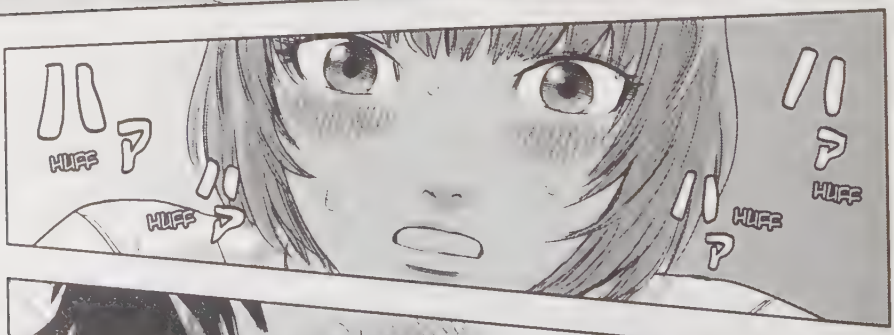
Saeki is my muse! My femme fatale! My Maria, my Venus! Forever!!
I didn't rub them all over myself!
THESE ?
WHUP
Z-1
Saeki
GRAB
DASH
I'M JUST GONNA BURN THESE IN THE INCINERATOR !
Saeki

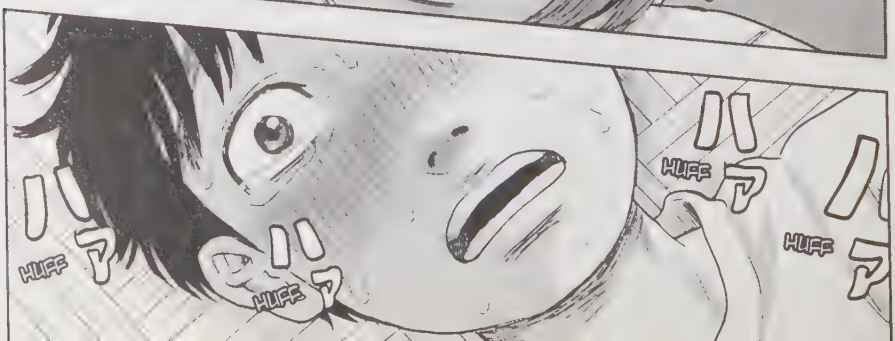

What's your deal ?!
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING ?!
I DON'T GET IT! YESTERDAY... AND TODAY...
THAT'S NOT ME! I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
WHAT "SUSPICIOUS MAN"? EVEN SAEKI GOT WEIRD LOOKS...
DID YOU SEE THE CLASS TODAY ?!

HUHH ...
HEY ...
WHAT ?!
カチャ TINK
カチャ TINK
!!!
WHY ?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! STOP—
ズボッ ZHUPP
EEYAAH!

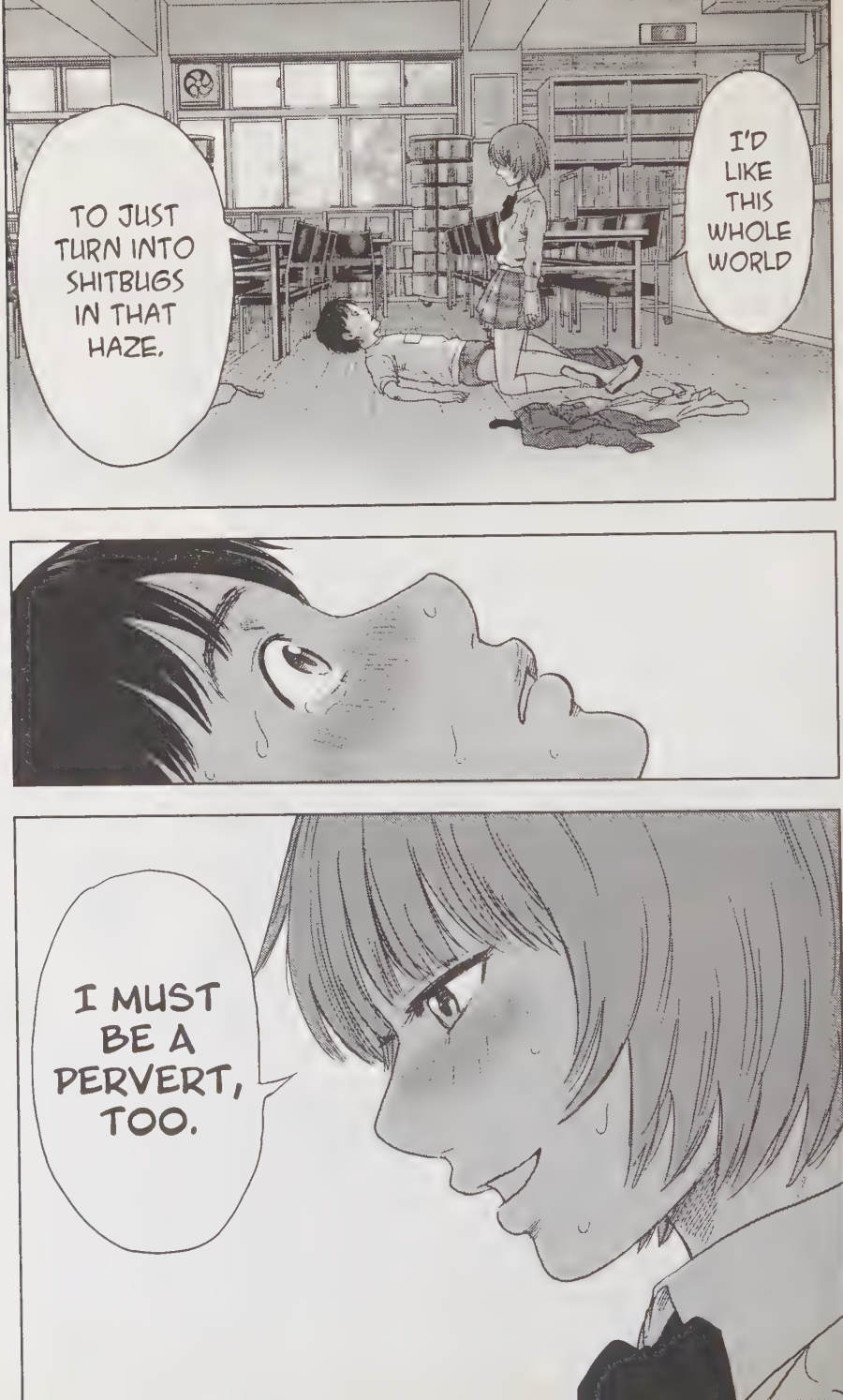
URGH—
GET OFF OF ME!
GET ...
RIPP
GRAB




ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF


ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF
ハア
HUFF

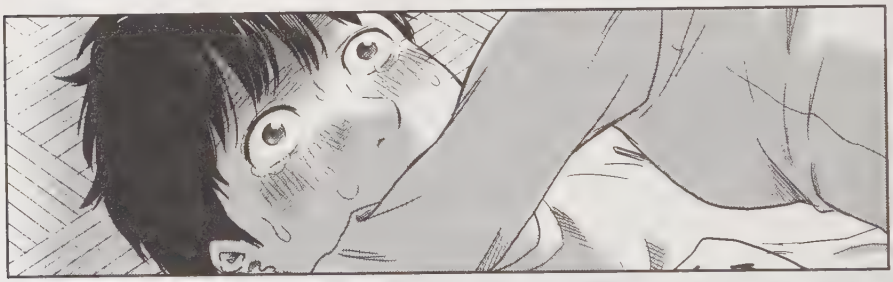
SNATCH
WHAP
2-1
Saeki
HUH
?!
STOP
...
WAIT
—
UAAGH
!
SNUGG

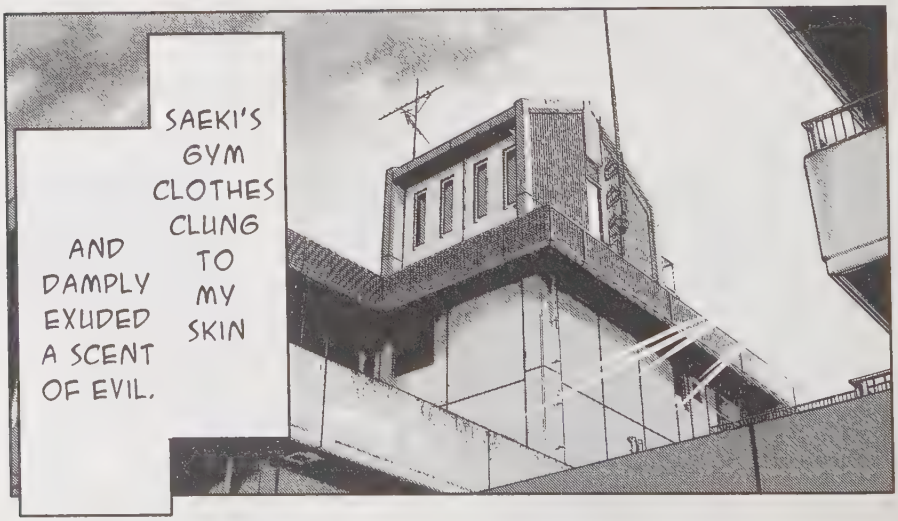

I'D LIKE THIS WHOLE WORLD
TO JUST TURN INTO SHITBUGS IN THAT HAZE.
I MUST BE A PERVERT, TOO.

SO?
Saeki
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

KASUGA, LISTEN.
I'VE FELT ANTSY FOR A WHILE NOW.
IT FEELS SO HAZY INSIDE OF IT DOWN THERE THAT I COULD SCREAM.

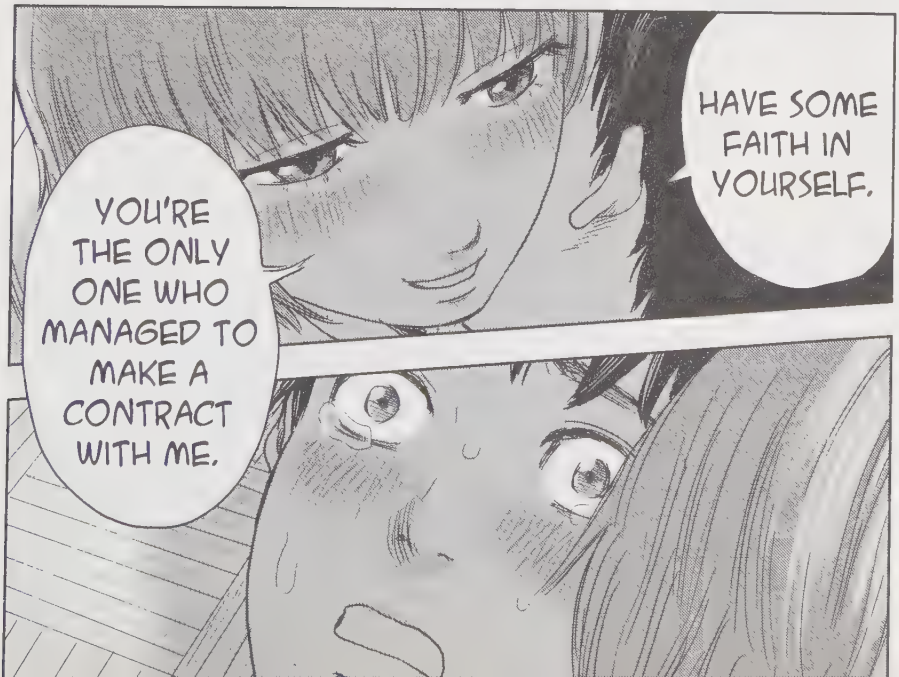
ALL RIGHT?
LET'S SPEND EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL TOGETHER!



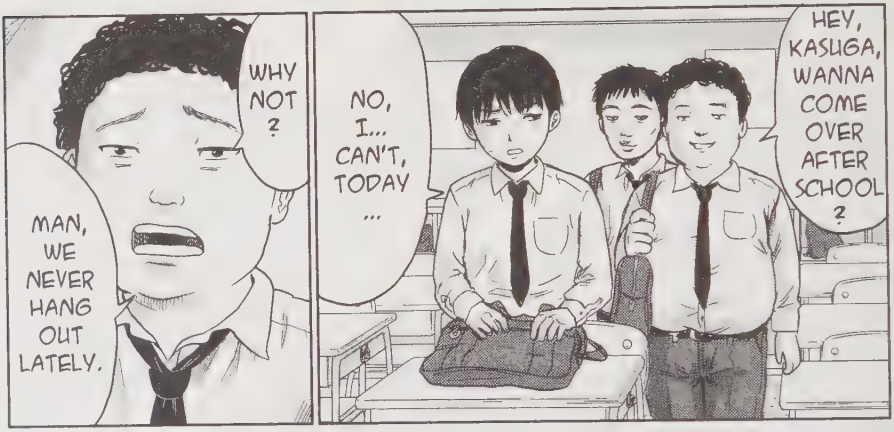

SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES CLUNG TO MY SKIN
AND DAMPLY EXUDED A SCENT OF EVIL.

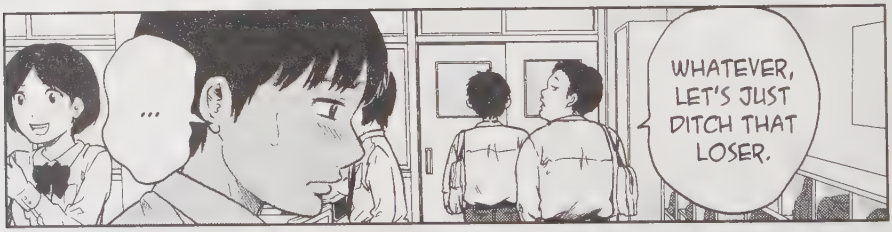
"TOO"
?
...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

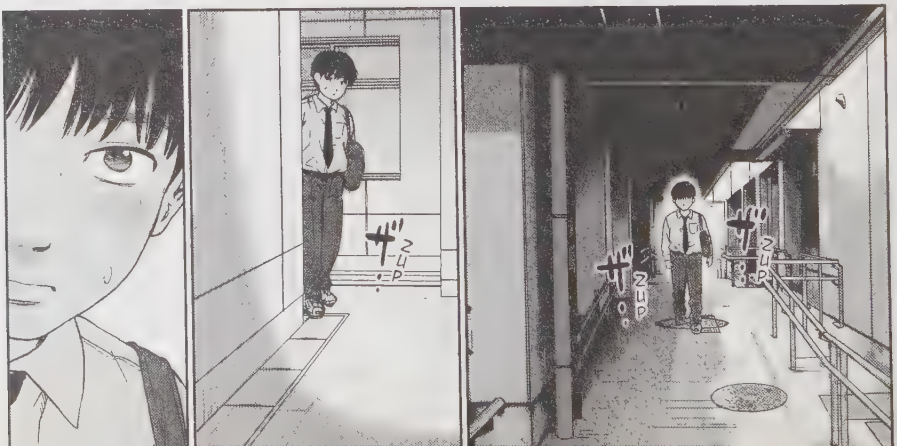
PLAP


HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOURSELF.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MANAGED TO MAKE A CONTRACT WITH ME.

キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
DONG
DONG


HEY, KASUGA, WANNA COME OVER AFTER SCHOOL?
NO, I... CAN'T, TODAY ...
WHY NOT?
MAN, WE NEVER HANG OUT LATELY.


WHATEVER, LET'S JUST DITCH THAT LOSER.
...


ザッザッザッ
ザッザッザッ
ザッザッザッ

Author Notes: 2

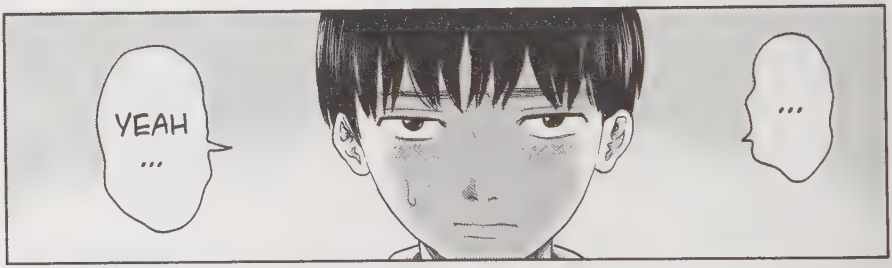
Chapter 2

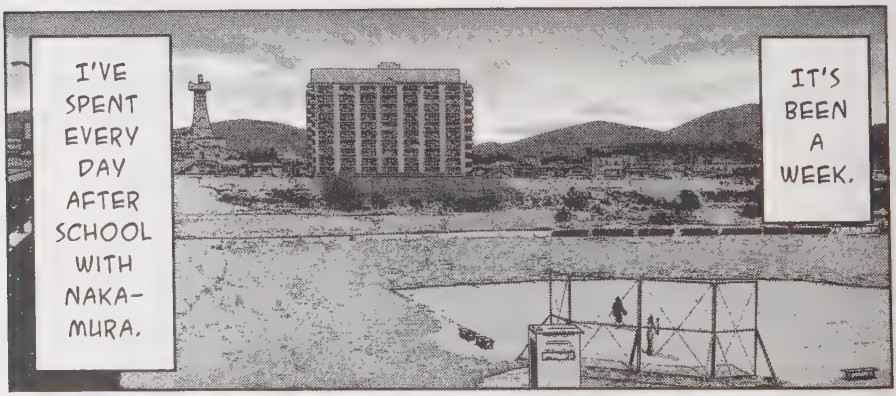
The school library that appears at the end of the chapter is my high school's library. The librarian there let me come in and take reference photos, a favor for which I am very thankful. My cousin is currently going to school there, and said cousin apparently got the librarian into my work.
The library had on display a magazine that had an interview with me, and I felt like I'd been caught red-handed and got out of there in a hurry. I was pretty happy, though.

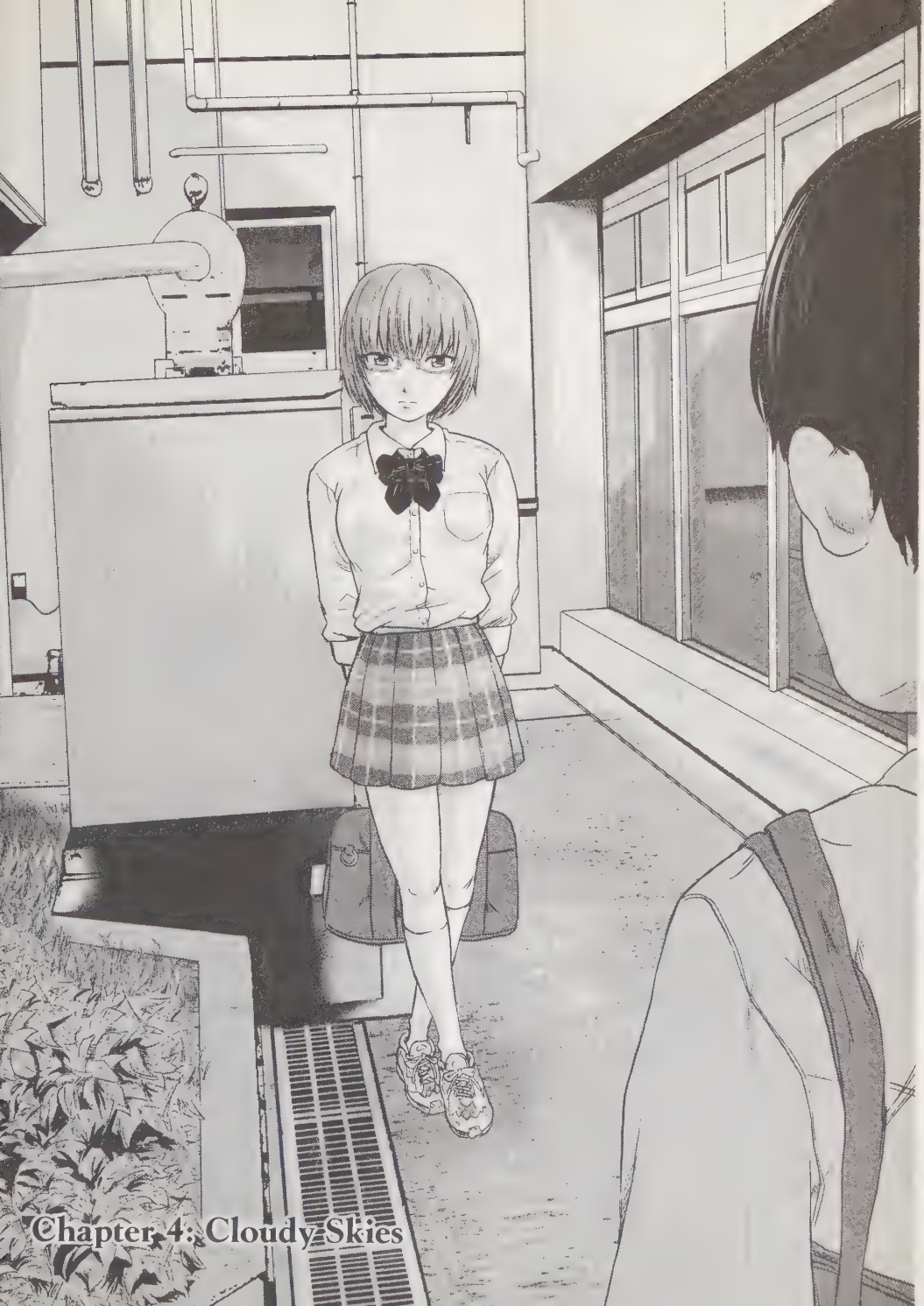
Chapter 3

This is the chapter when I think we first see Nakamura's true charm. She has a real-life model, who has actually called me things like "shitbug," "scrap metal," "human garbage," and "turd guy."

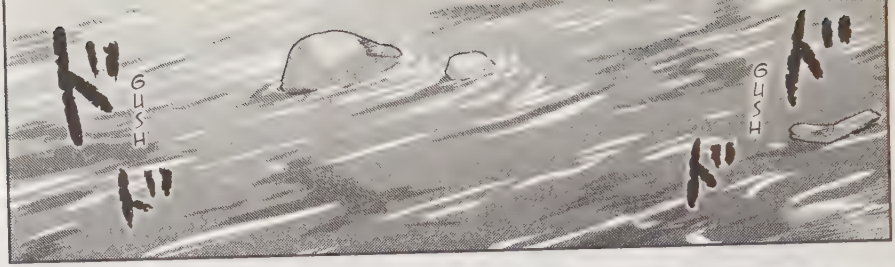
LET'S GO.
カチャ
CHIK

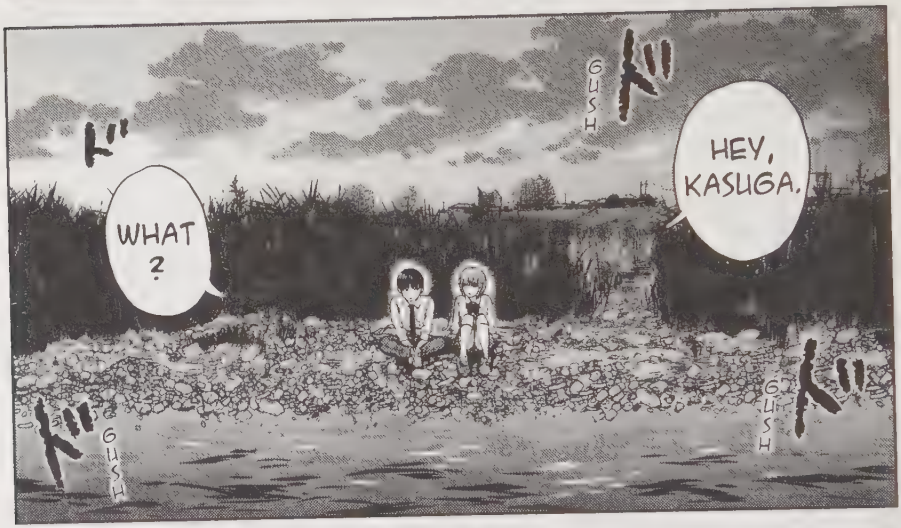

YEAH ...
...


I'VE SPENT EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL WITH NAKA-MURA.
IT'S BEEN A WEEK.

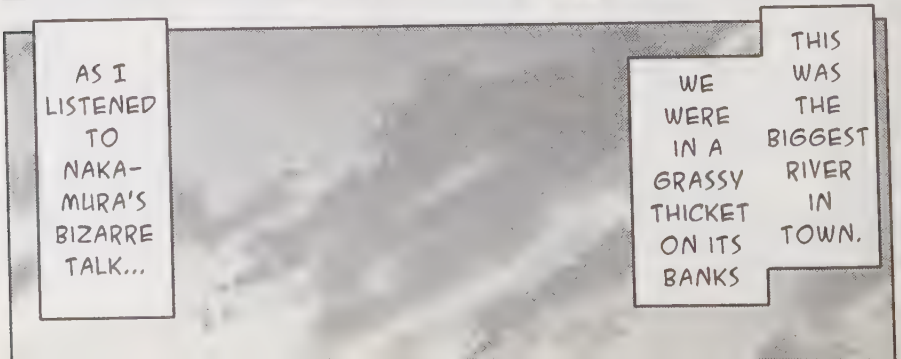


Chapter 4: Cloudy Skies


GUSH
GUSH

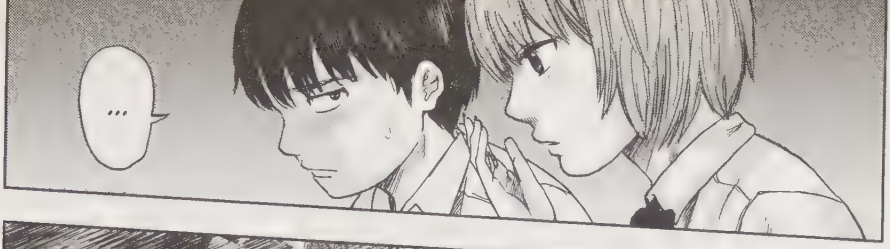

GUSH
HEY, KASUGA.
WHAT?
GUSH
GUSH

TH-THAT'S OKAY ...
WANNA SNIFF IT?
MY HAND SMELLS REALLY GOOD THESE DAYS.


AS I LISTENED TO NAKA-MURA'S BIZARRE TALK...
WE WERE IN A GRASSY THICKET ON ITS BANKS
THIS WAS THE BIGGEST RIVER IN TOWN.

...
"WHO CARES?"
C'MON, HURRY UP, KASUGA.
WE'RE ... RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN!
WHAT'RE THE KIDS FROM SCHOOL GONNA SAY IF THEY SEE US?!
WHO CARES?
AH—!
スタ TUP スタ
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

H-
HEY
...
ドキ
BAIBUMP
SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES ALL OVER YOURSELF?
SO, YOU'VE BEEN USING THIS HAND TO STROKE AND RUB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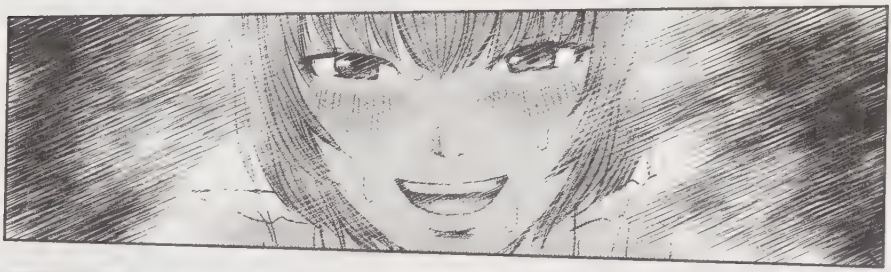
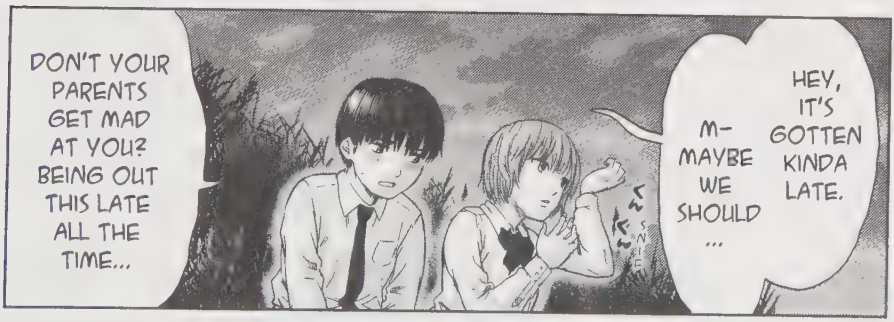
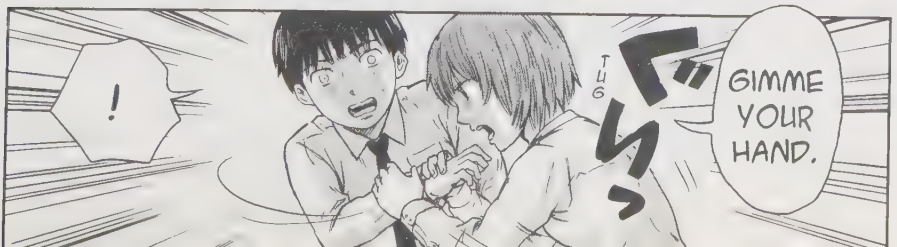
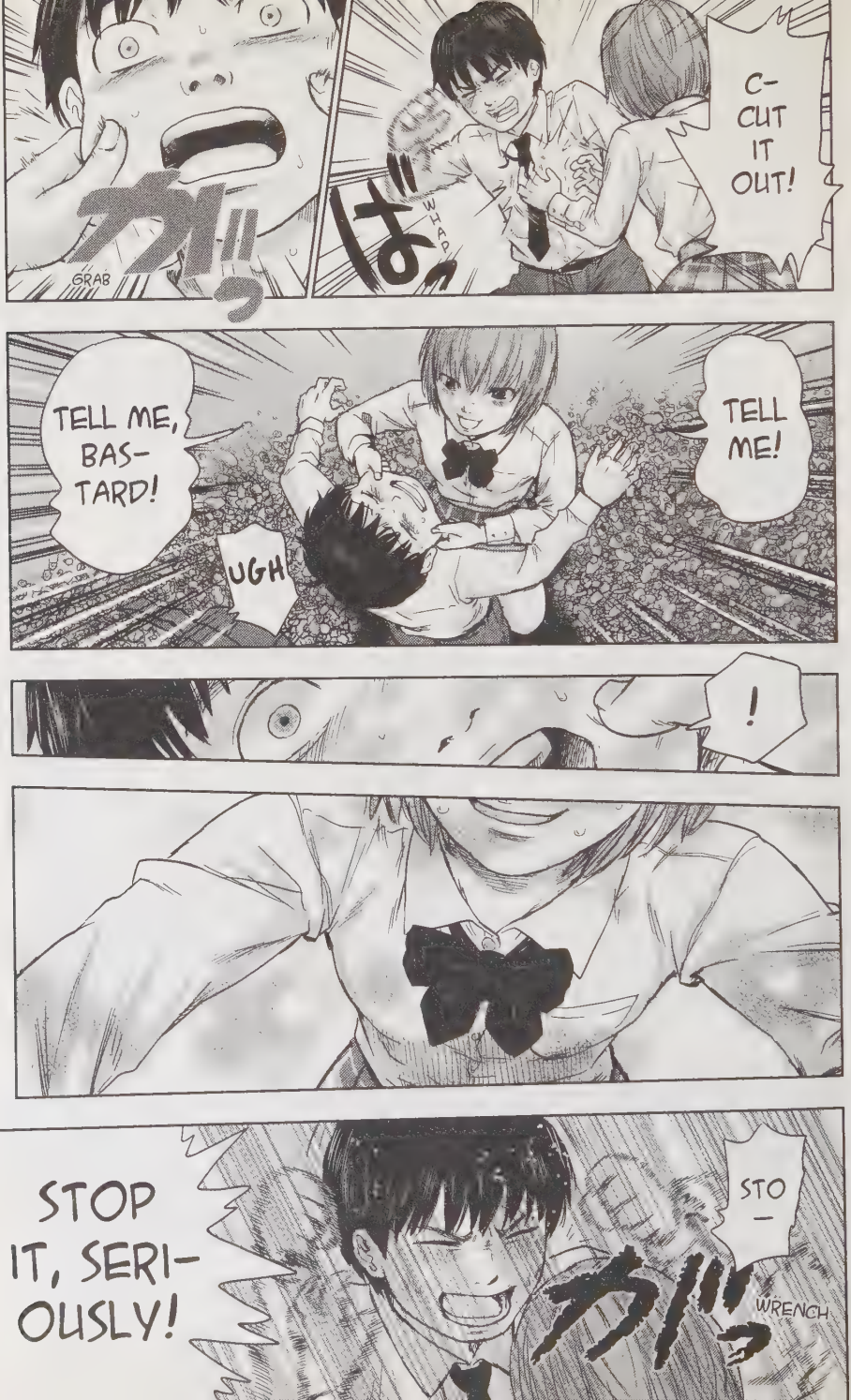
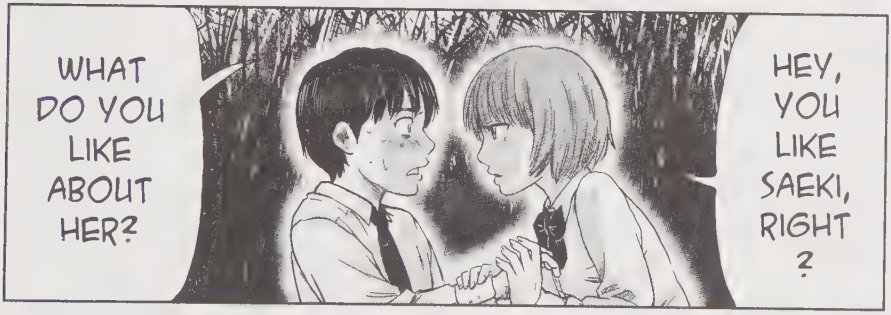


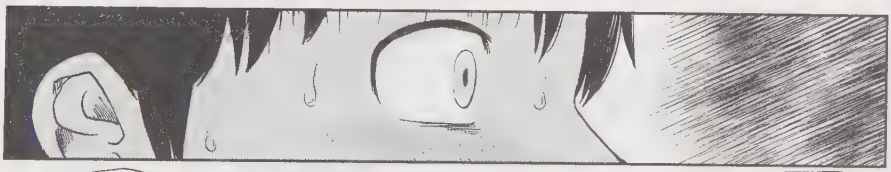

DON'T YOUR PARENTS GET MAD AT YOU? BEING OUT THIS LATE ALL THE TIME...
M-MAYBE WE SHOULD ...
HEY, IT'S GOTTEN KINDA LATE.
SNIF

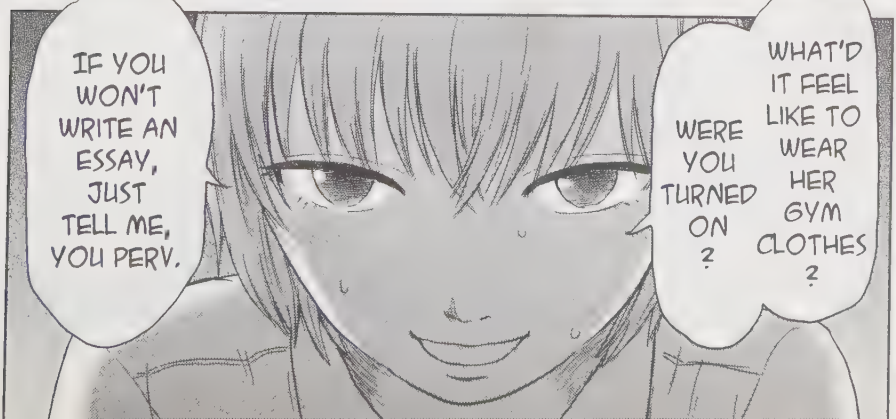

!
TUG
GIMME YOUR HAND.


GRAB
WHAP
C-CUT IT OUT!
TELL ME, BAS-TARD!
UGH
TELL ME!
!
STOP IT, SERI-OUSLY!
STO—
WRENCH

I—
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T!
YOU PERV.
UGH—

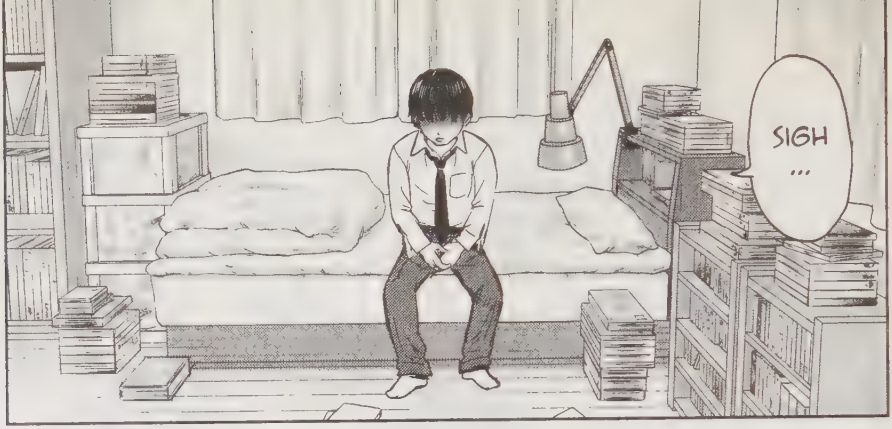

HEY, YOU LIKE SAEKI, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HER?

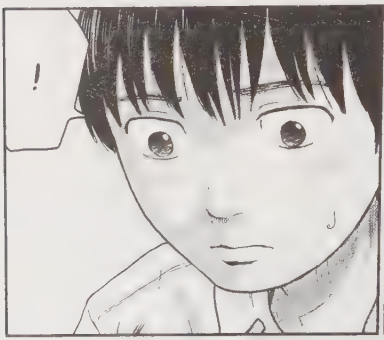



WHAT'D IT FEEL LIKE TO WEAR HER GYM CLOTHES?
WERE YOU TURNED ON?
IF YOU WON'T WRITE AN ESSAY, JUST TELL ME, YOU PERV.

I'LL GO HOME FOR TO-DAY.
SEE YOU TO-MOR-ROW.
And just where is it
you've been running off to every day?!

AH
—
I-IT'S GOTTEN DARK ...
NO ... I MEAN ...
I'M SERI-OUSLY GOING HOME.
UM ...
!


SIGH ...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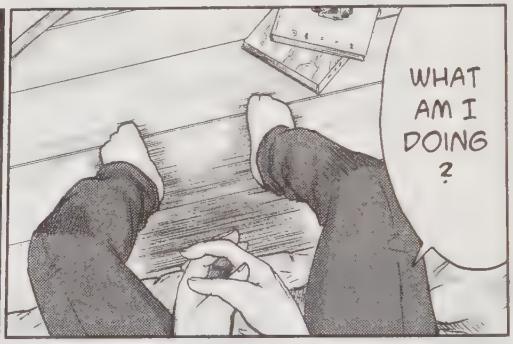
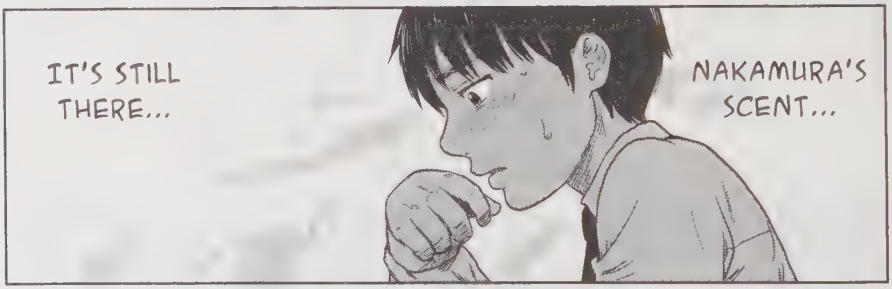
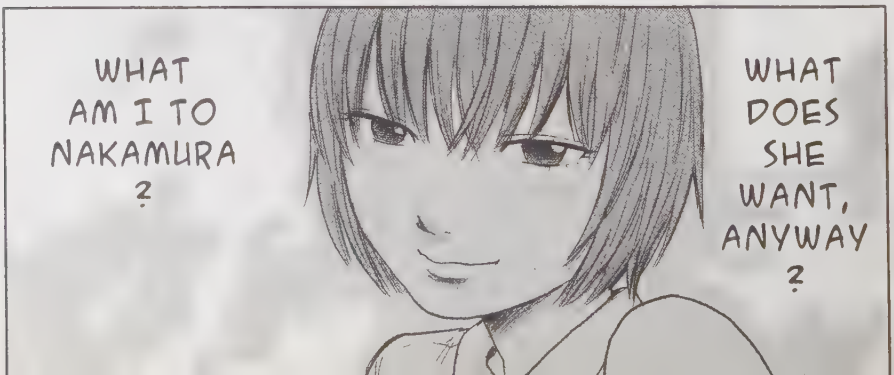
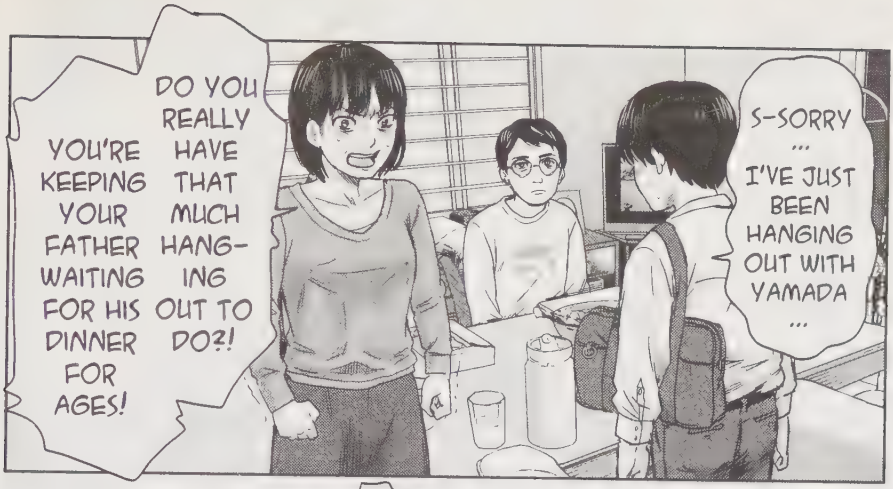
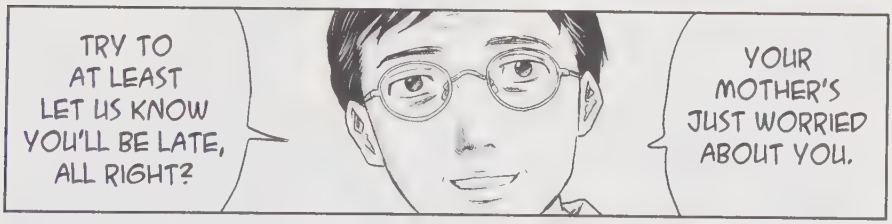

WHAT AM I DOING ?


IT'S STILL THERE...
NAKAMURA'S SCENT...

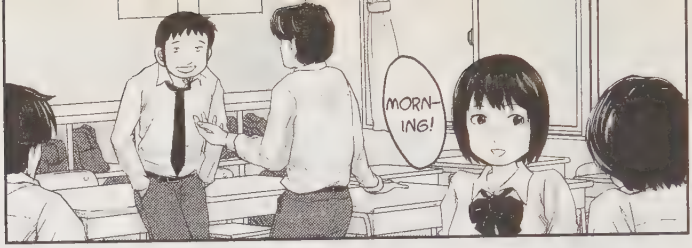

WHAT AM I TO NAKAMURA ?
WHAT DOES SHE WANT, ANYWAY ?

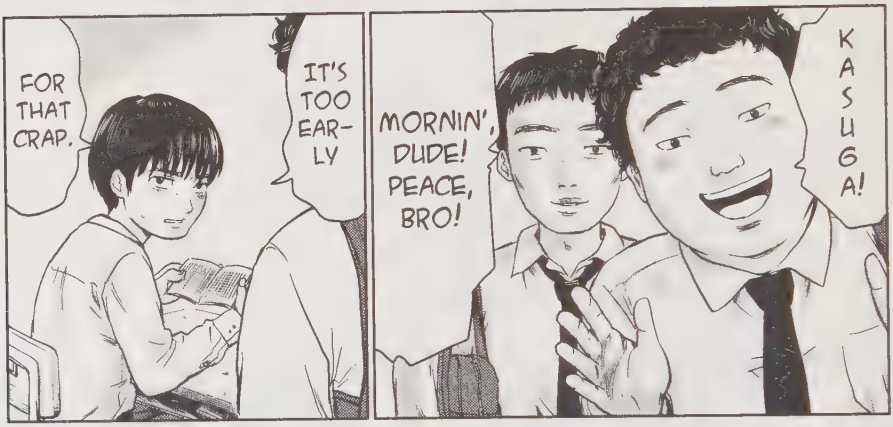

S-SORRY ... I'VE JUST BEEN HANGING OUT WITH YAMADA ...
DO YOU REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH HANG-ING OUT TO DO?!
YOU'RE KEEPING YOUR FATHER WAITING FOR HIS DINNER FOR AGES!

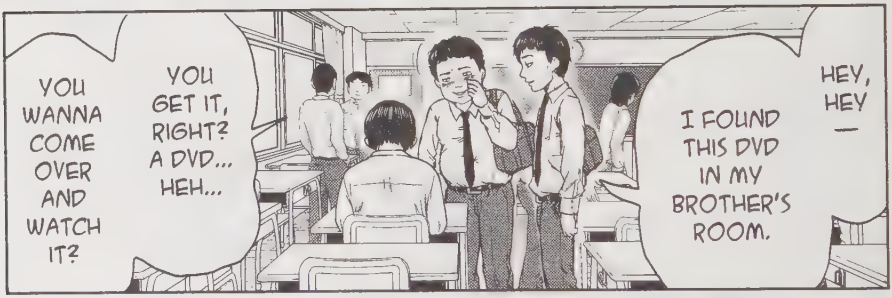
NOW, NOW, MOTHER —
TAKAO'S IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOME PLAYING WITH HIS FRIENDS WON'T HURT.
FATHER!
NOW, NOW ...


YOUR MOTHER'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
TRY TO AT LEAST LET US KNOW YOU'LL BE LATE, ALL RIGHT?

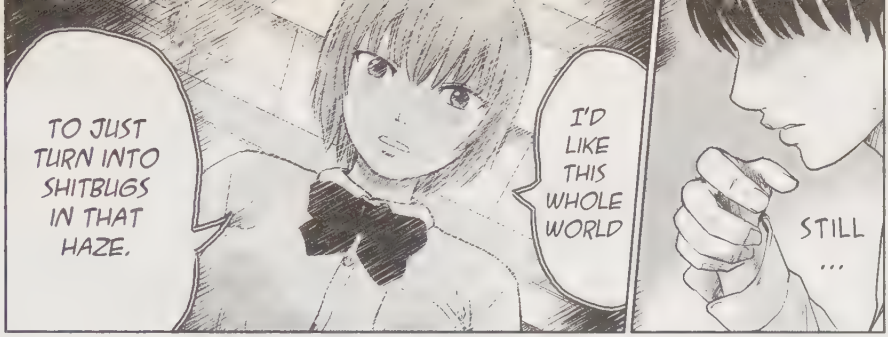
YEAH...
GOOD. NOW, LET'S EAT.

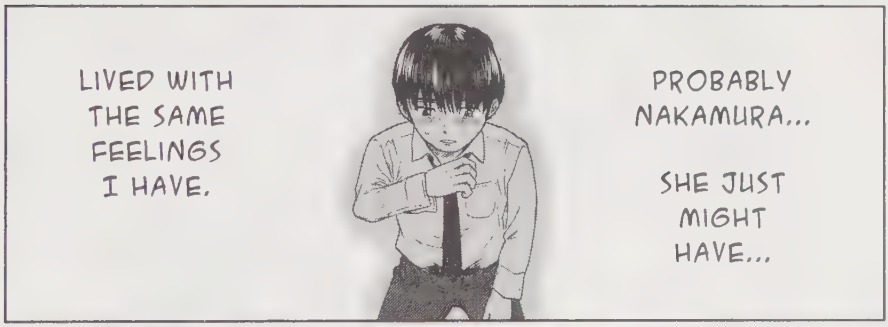

MORN-ING!

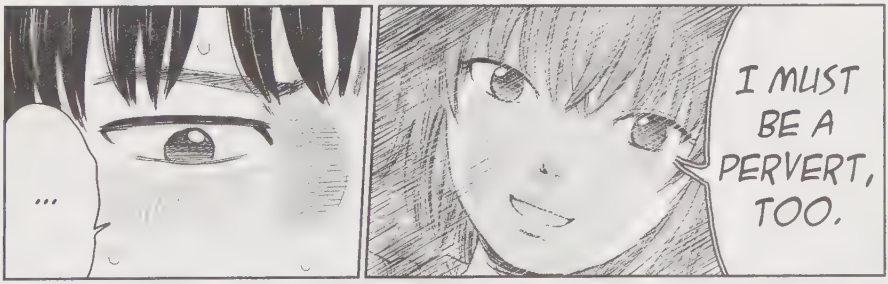

KASUGA!
MORNIN', DUDE! PEACE, BRO!
IT'S TOO EAR-LY
FOR THAT CRAP.


HEY, HEY —
I FOUND THIS DVD IN MY BROTHER'S ROOM.
YOU GET IT, RIGHT? A DVD... HEH...
YOU WANNA COME OVER AND WATCH IT?

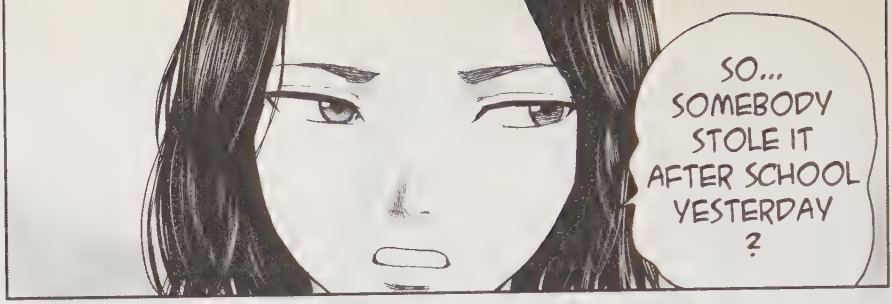
I'M FINE, THANKS.
C'MON, MAN, GET IN ON THIS!
KASU-GAA ...
I'M TRYING TO READ!
It's gone !

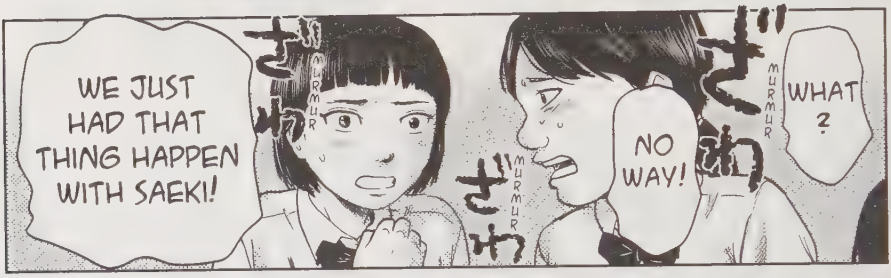

TO JUST TURN INTO SHITBUGS IN THAT HAZE.
I'D LIKE THIS WHOLE WORLD
STILL ...


LIVED WITH THE SAME FEELINGS I HAVE.
PROBABLY NAKAMURA...
SHE JUST MIGHT HAVE...


...
I MUST BE A PERVERT, TOO.

ARE SO PURE.
BUT... NO, I'M NOT A PERVERT!
MY FEELINGS FOR SAEKI, AT LEAST THAT...

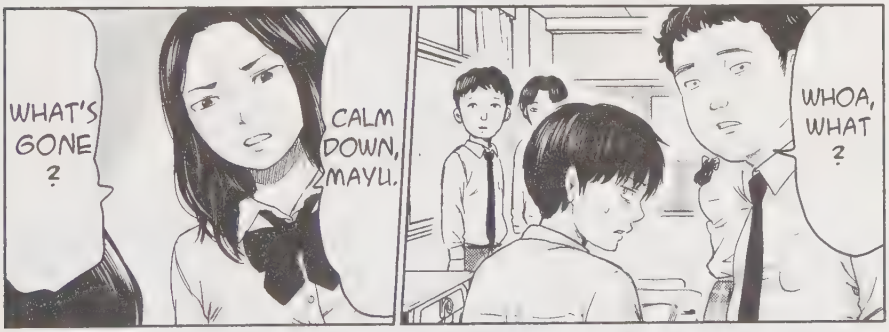

SO... SOMEBODY STOLE IT AFTER SCHOOL YESTERDAY ?


WE JUST HAD THAT THING HAPPEN WITH SAEKI!
NO WAY!
WHAT ?
murmur
murmur
murmur

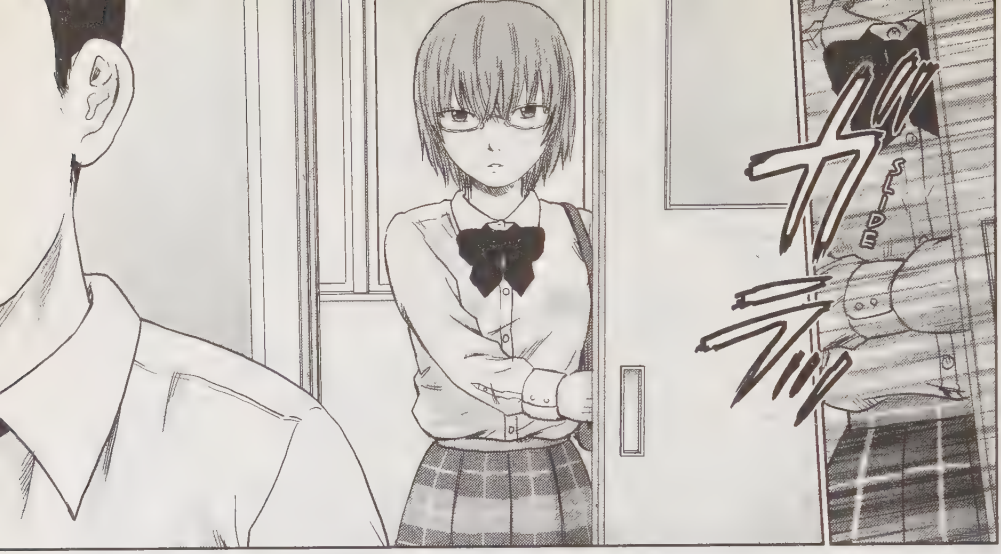
DOES ANYBODY KNOW ANYTHING ?!
!
murmur
murmur

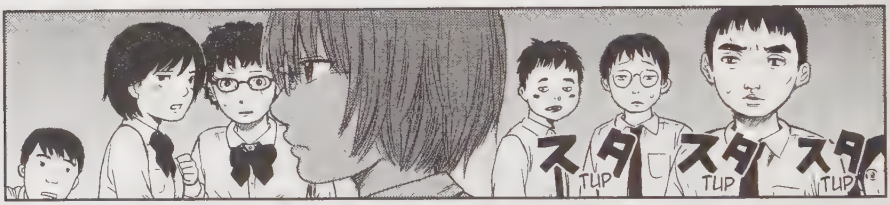
THINK NAKA-MURA DID IT ?
HEY, HEY —

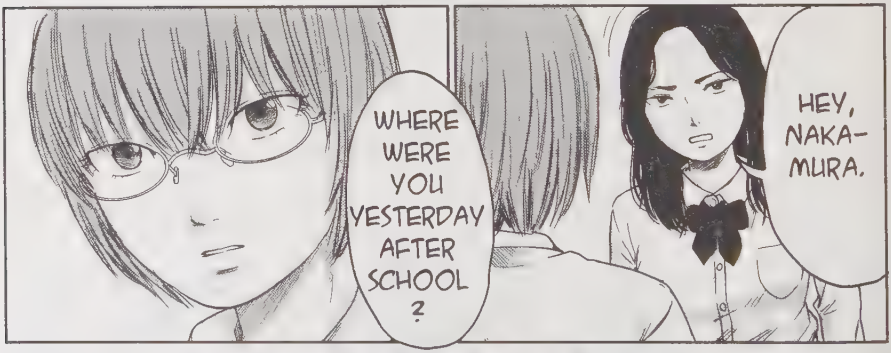
What am I gonna do, Ai?!
It's gone ! Gone !

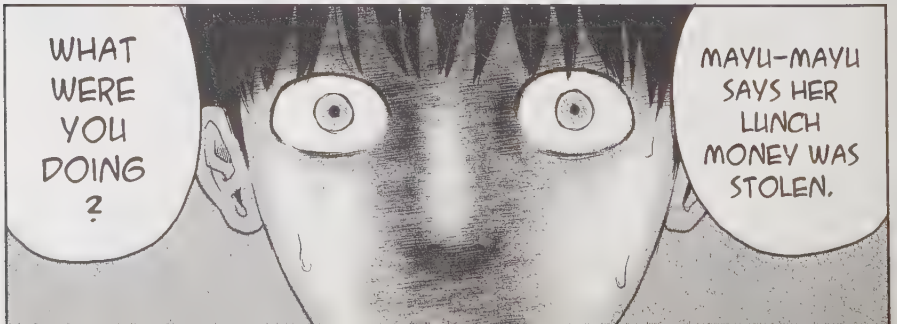

WHAT'S GONE ?
CALM DOWN, MAYU.
WHOA, WHAT ?

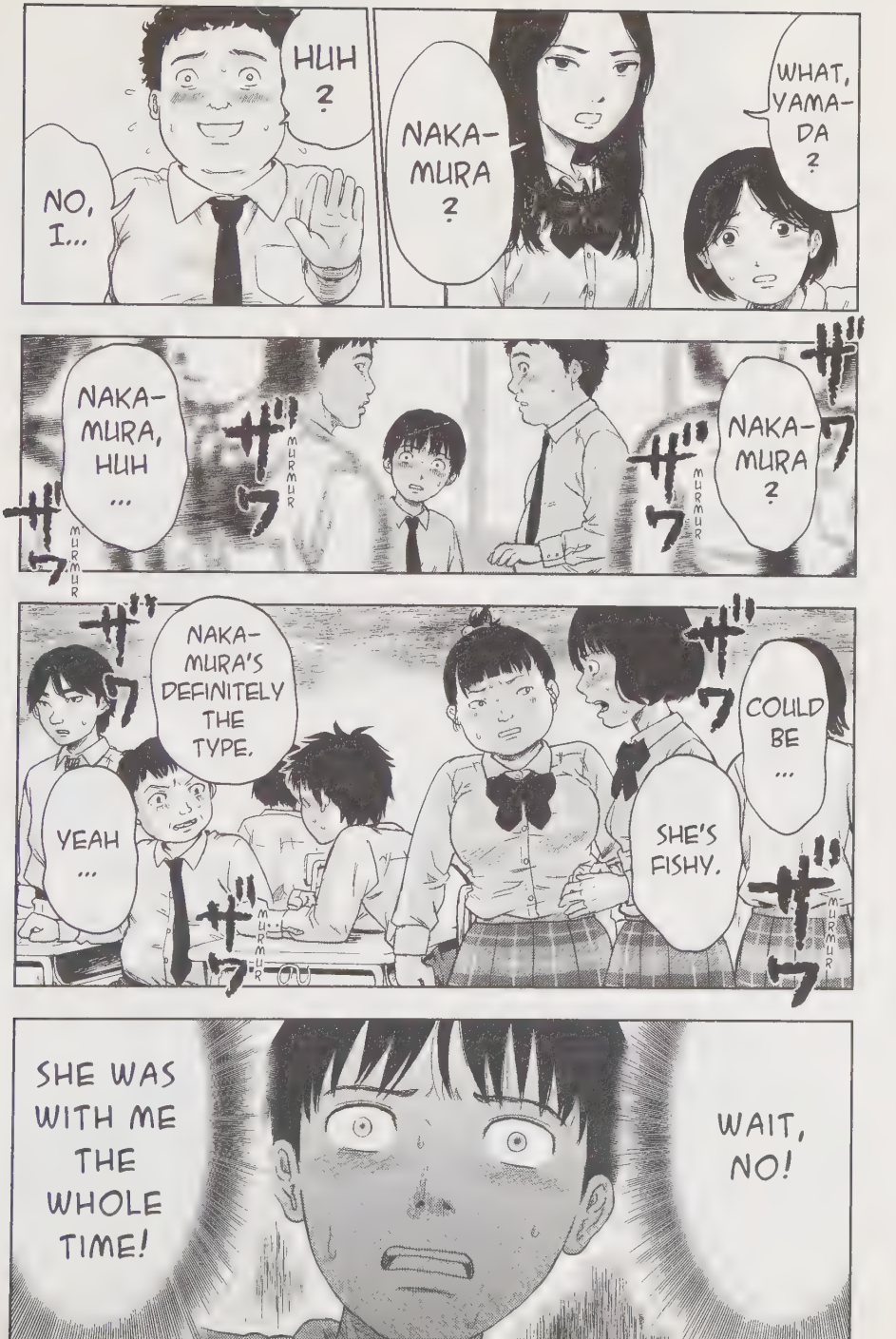
MY ... MY LUNCH MONEY !
I FORGOT TO TAKE IT YESTERDAY AND LEFT IT IN MY LOCKER
AND WHEN I CAME IN THIS MORNING IT WAS GONE!
MURMUR

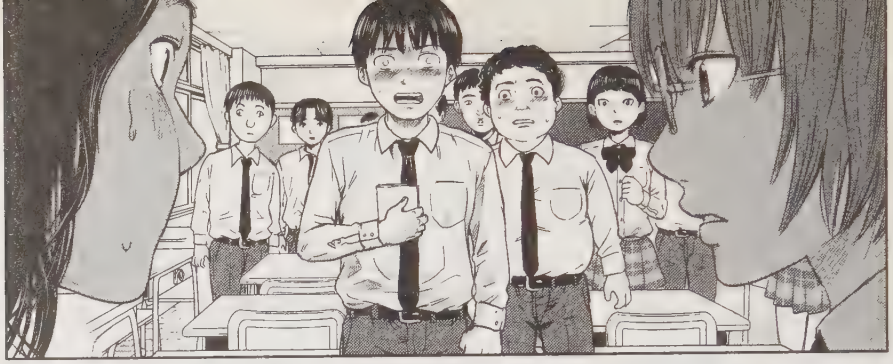

SLIDE

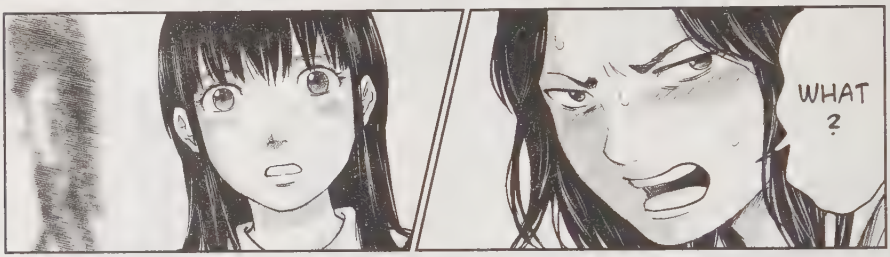

TUP
TUP
TUP


HEY, NAKA-MURA.
WHERE WERE YOU YESTERDAY AFTER SCHOOL?

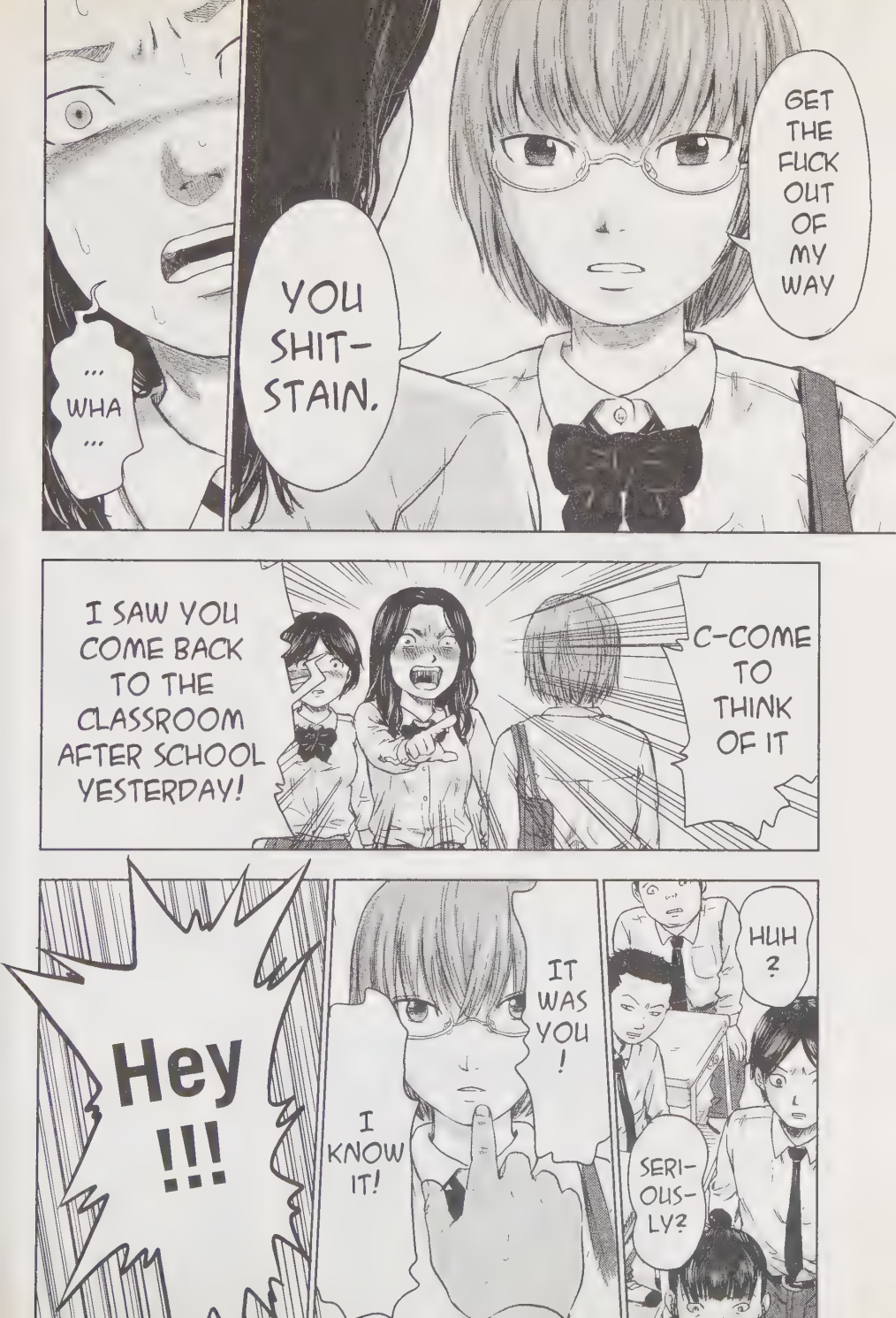

MAYU-MAYU SAYS HER LUNCH MONEY WAS STOLEN.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?


HUH?
NO, I...
NAKA-MURA?
WHAT, YAMA-DA?
NAKA-MURA, HUH...
NAKA-MURA?
ザワ
MURMUR
NAKA-MURA'S DEFINITELY THE TYPE.
YEAH...
COULD BE...
SHE'S FISHY.
SHE WAS WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME!
WAIT, NO!

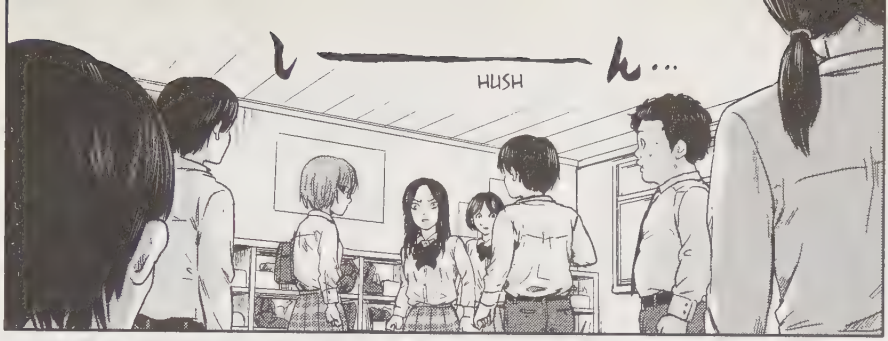



WHAT ?

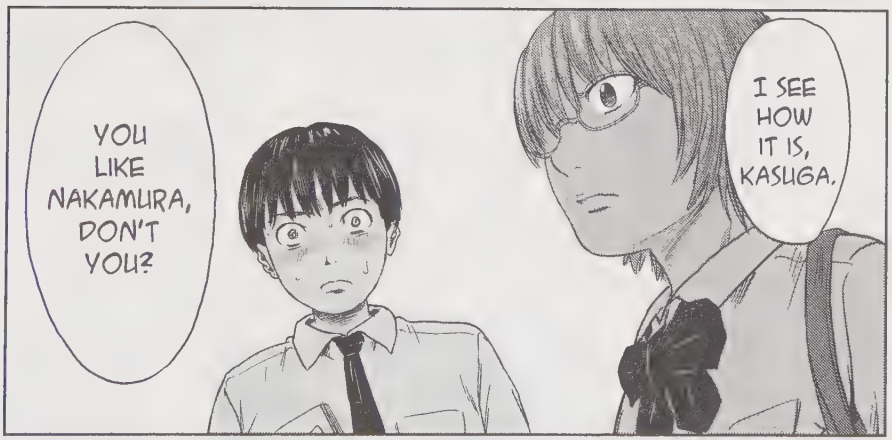
I-I know — sometimes we don't know what Nakamura's up to, but
The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch
Philip K. Dick
this has nothing to do with her !
You don't have any proof !!!

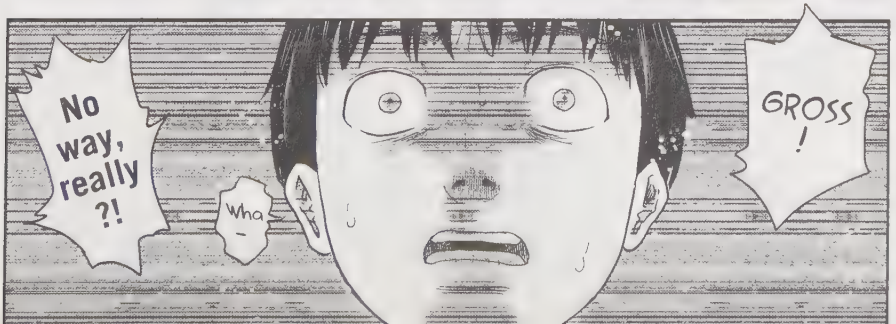

GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY WAY
YOU SHIT-STAIN.
... WHA ...
I SAW YOU COME BACK TO THE CLASSROOM AFTER SCHOOL YESTERDAY!
C-COME TO THINK OF IT
Hey !!!
I KNOW IT!
IT WAS YOU!
HUH?
SERI-OUS-LY?

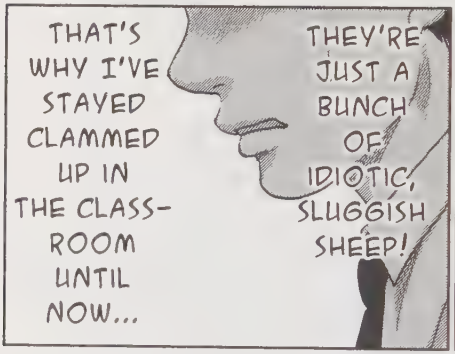
MAYBE KASUGA'S JUST AS WEIRD AS SHE IS?
WHY NAKA-MURA ?
CREEPY, DUDE ...
WHOAH, KASUGA ...
I WAS ONLY CONSIDER-ING THE SITUATION OBJEC-TIVELY —
WAIT, WAIT A SEC !
!
LET'S GO TELL THE TEACH.
C'MON, MAYU,
HMPH.


HUSH

OH ?
JUST GO SIT IN THE CORNER AND READ YOUR BOOK !
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM, KASUGA ?

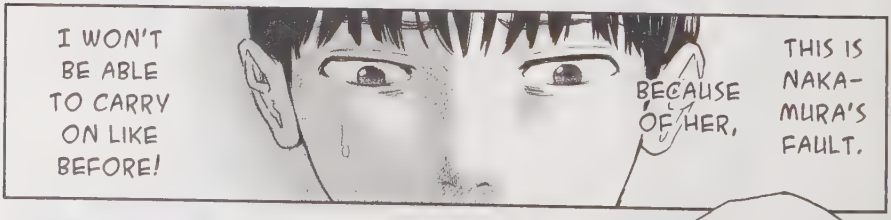

YOU LIKE NAKAMURA, DON'T YOU?
I SEE HOW IT IS, KASUGA.

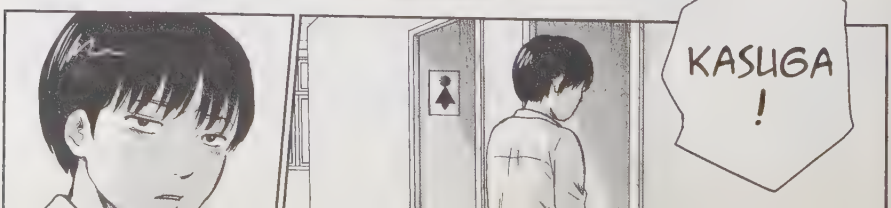

No way, really ?!
Wha-
GROSS !

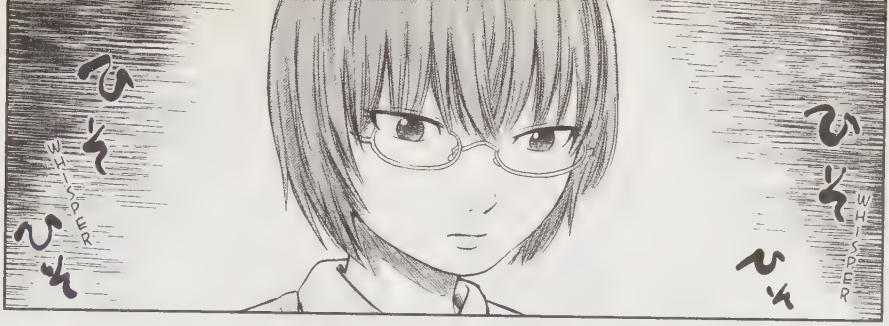

THAT'S WHY I'VE STAYED CLAMMED UP IN THE CLASS-ROOM UNTIL NOW...
THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF IDIOTIC, SLUGGISH SHEEP!

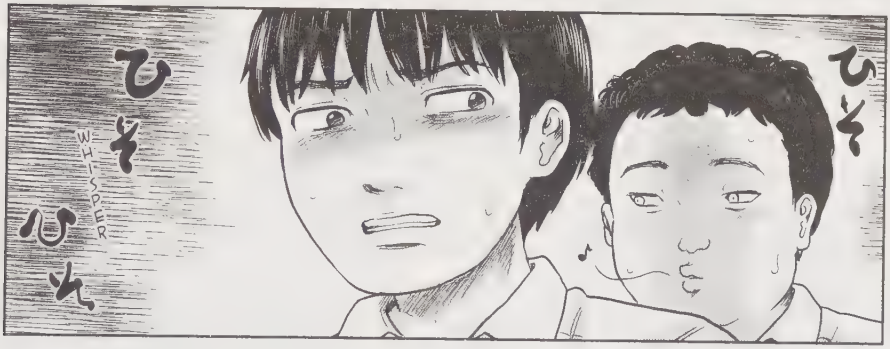
I SHOULD'VE JUST IGNORED THEM. HOW UNLIKE ME...
SHIT... WHY DID I SAY THAT?

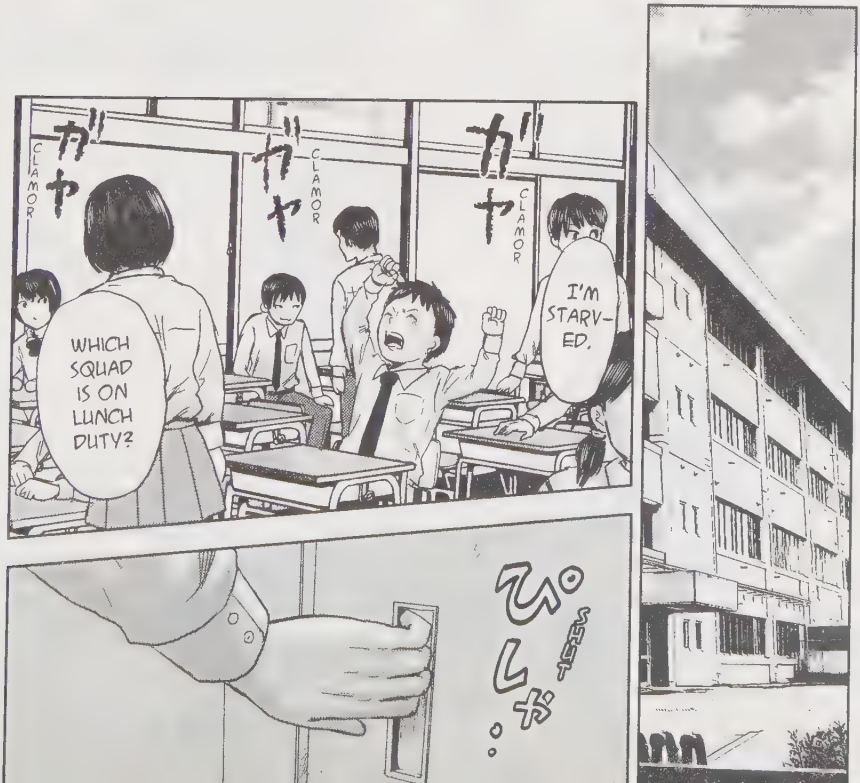
SAEKI LOOKED AT ME WEIRD, TOO...
WC
AAH...

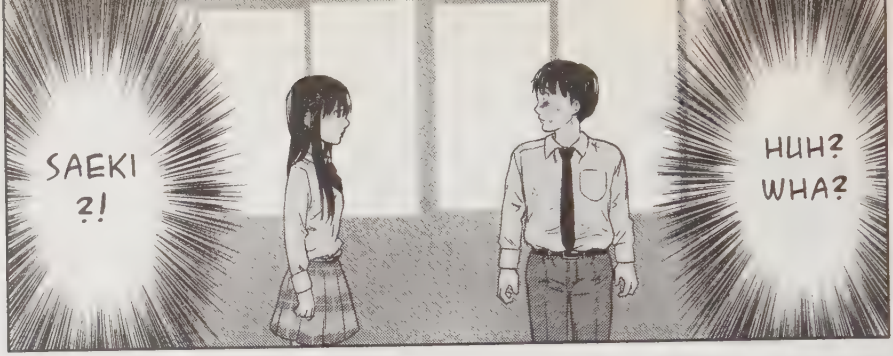

I WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY ON LIKE BEFORE!
BECAUSE OF HER,
THIS IS NAKA-MURA'S FAULT.


KASUGA!

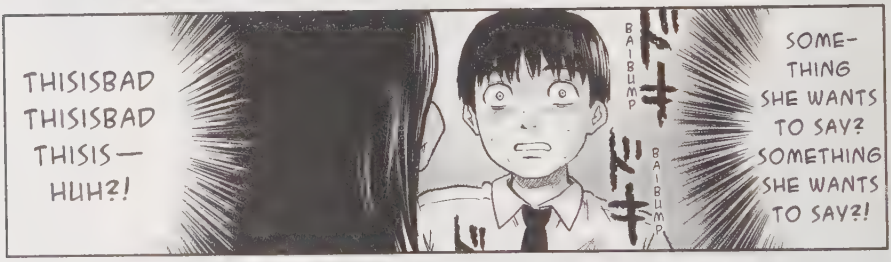

ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ
ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ


ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ
ひそ

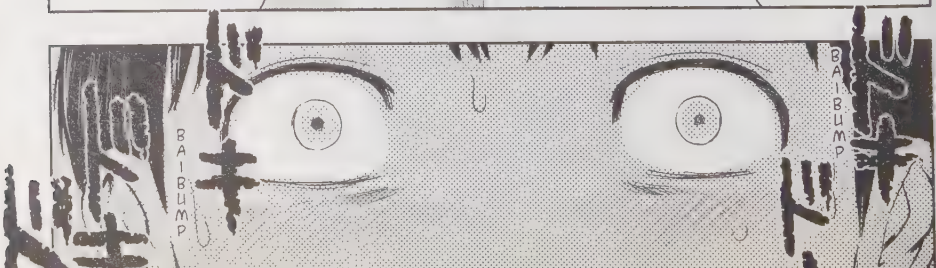

ガヤ
CLAMOR
ガヤ
CLAMOR
ガヤ
CLAMOR
WHICH SQUAD IS ON LUNCH DUTY?
I'M STARV-ED.
ピシャ
SLIDE

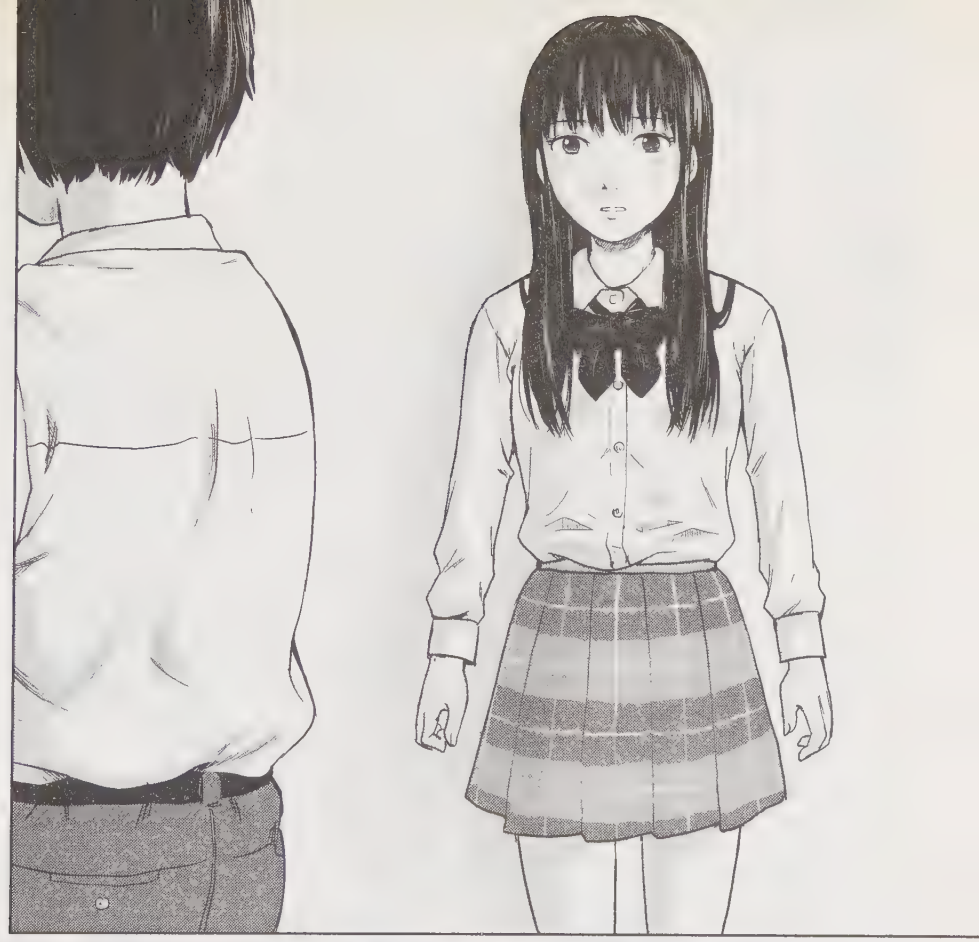

SAEKI ?!
HUH? WHA?

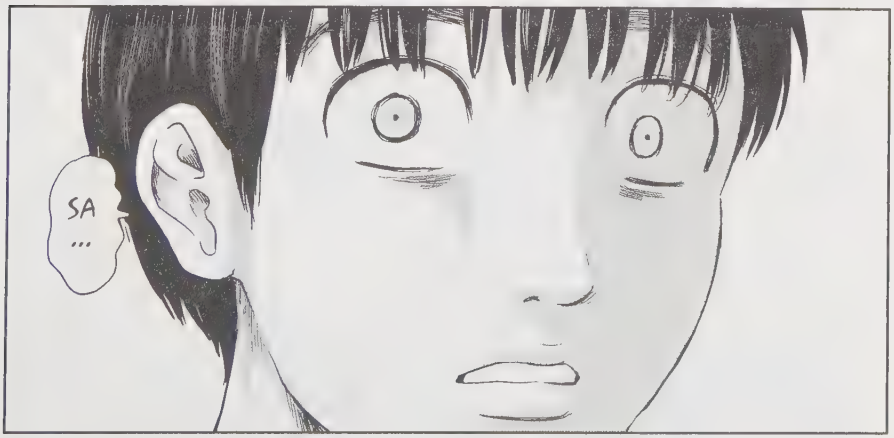
THERE'S ... SOME-THING I WANT TO SAY.
UH ... UM ...


THISISBAD THISISBAD THISIS— HUH?!
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
SOME-THING SHE WANTS TO SAY? SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY?!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT KIND OF PERSON, KASUGA.
THIS MORNING, YOU STOOD UP FOR NAKAMURA.


BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP

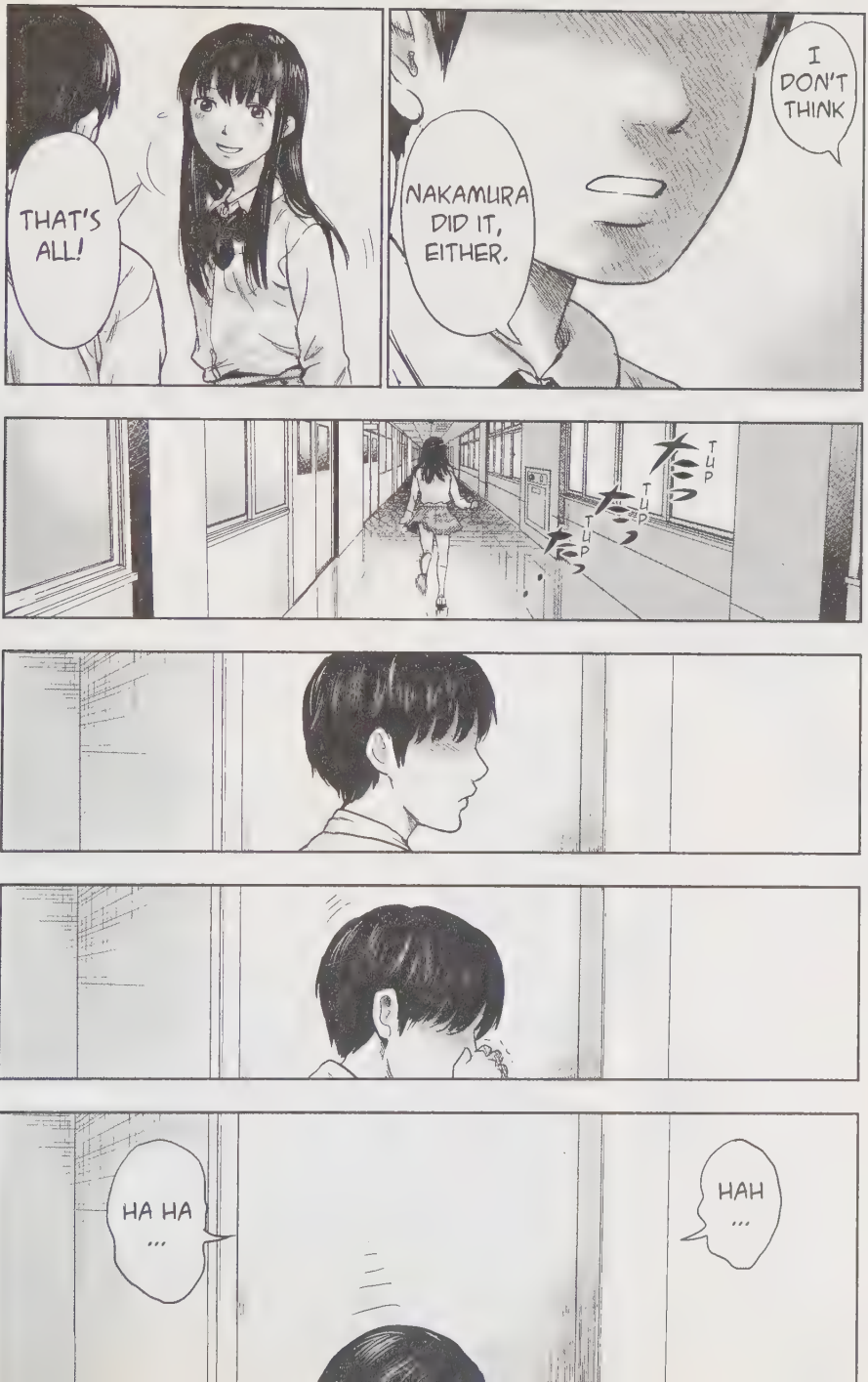



SA
...

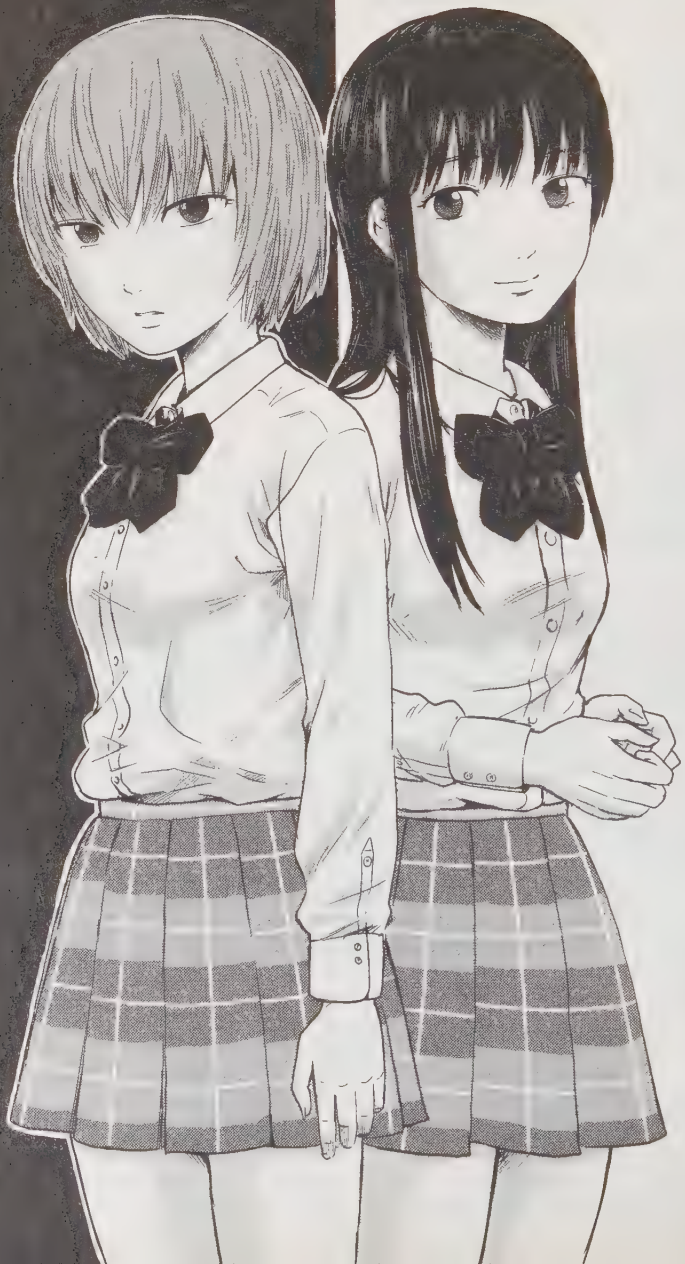
KASUGA.

YOU WERE REALLY COOL

UGH ...
HNGH ...
AAH ...
HRR RRR NNN ...!
HA HA HA—
HEH... HAH ...


THAT'S ALL!
NAKAMURA DID IT, EITHER.
I DON'T THINK
TUP
TUP
TUP
HA HA ...
HAH ...

Chapter 5: A Promise

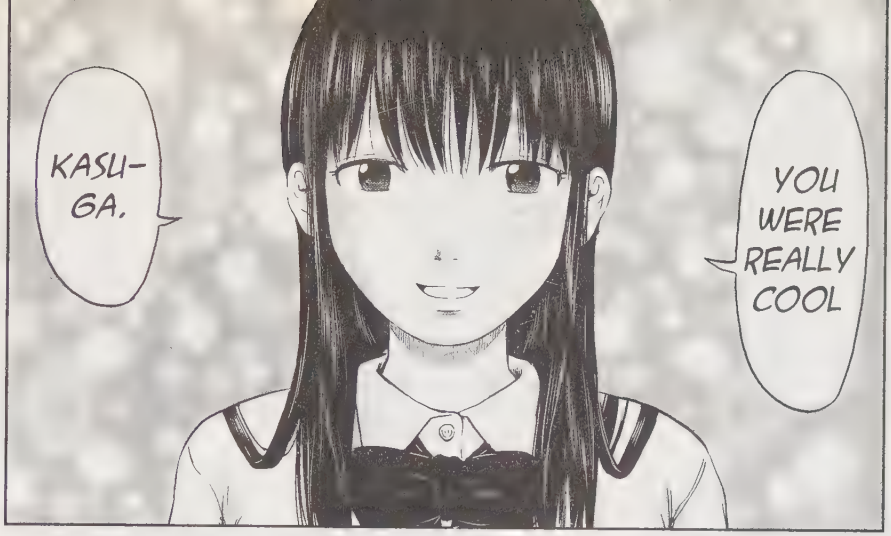


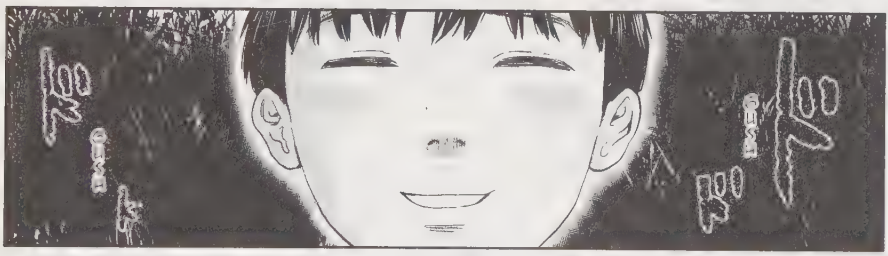
Author Notes: 3

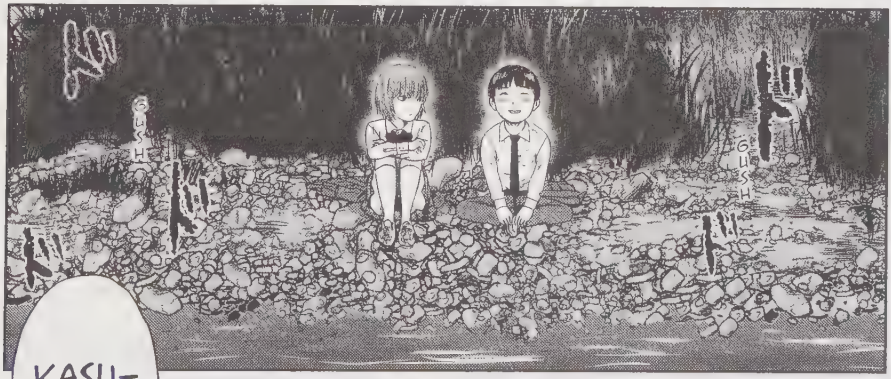
Chapter 4

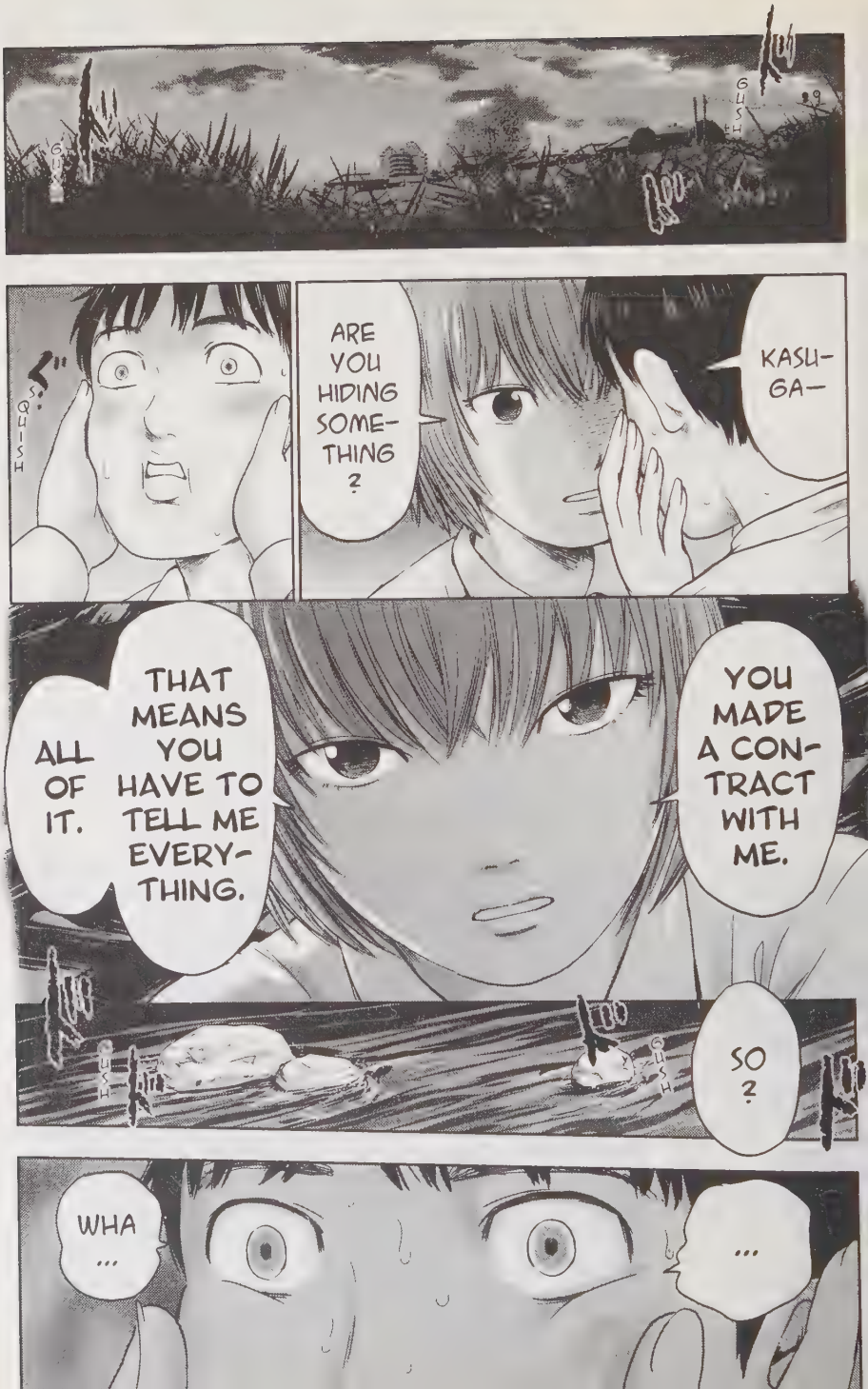
There isn't a particular real-world model for Saeki.
My editor S. seems quite fond of her.
The river that appears at the beginning of the chapter is based on the one that runs through my hometown. When I was in middle school, I often played around on its banks.
Back then I had nowhere to go, so I was constantly hitting up the few bookstores in town, where I'd stand between the shelves and read as many paperbacks as I could manage. On my dad's recommendation I read a lot of modernist poets Sakutaro Hagiwara and Mitsuharu Kaneko.

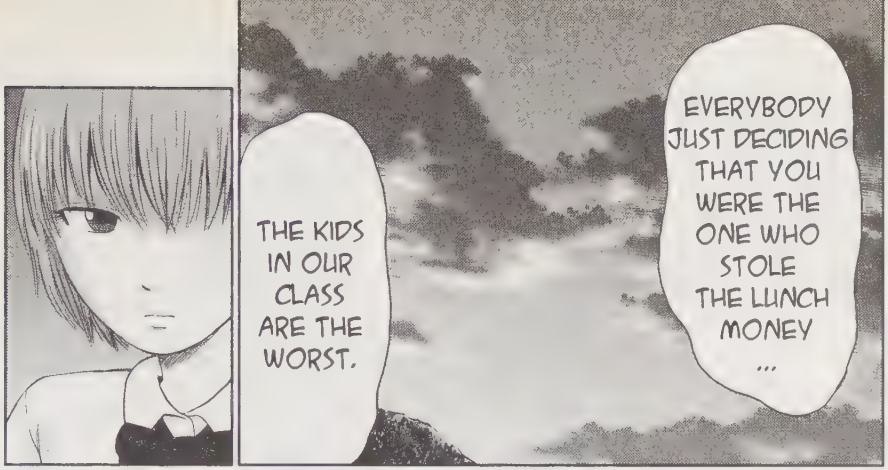
WHA?
KASU-GA!
IT'S FUCKING CREEPY.
WHAT'S THAT STUPID GRIN FOR?
OH...
HUH?
THIS MORNING WAS PRETTY CRAZY, HUH?
UM, WELL...

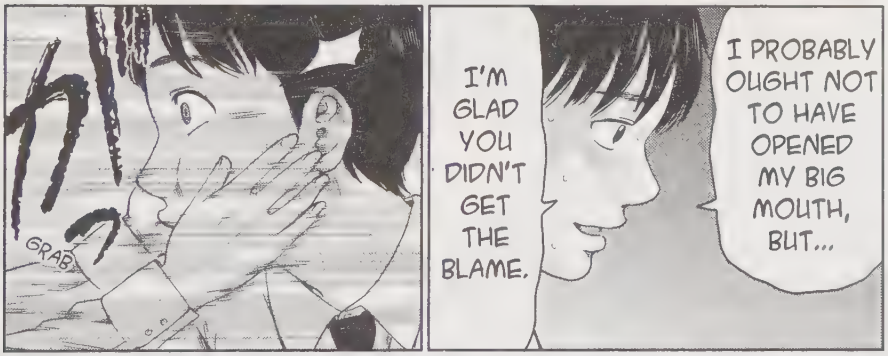

KASU-
GA.
YOU
WERE
REALLY
COOL



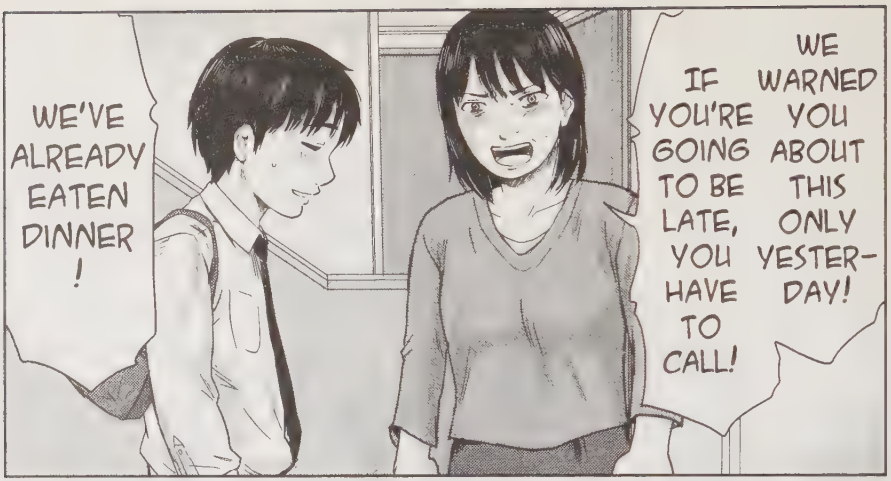

KASU-
GA.

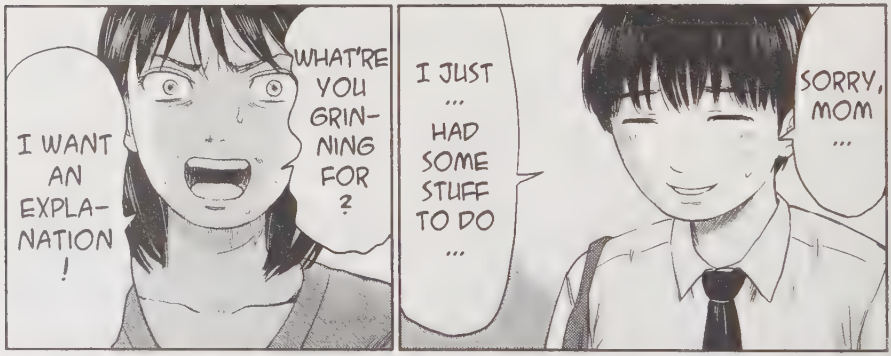

GUSH
GUSH
GUSH
KASU-GA—
ARE YOU HIDING SOME-THING?
YOU MADE A CON-TRACT WITH ME.
SO?
THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO TELL ME EVERY-THING.
ALL OF IT.
GUSH
GUSH
WHA...
...

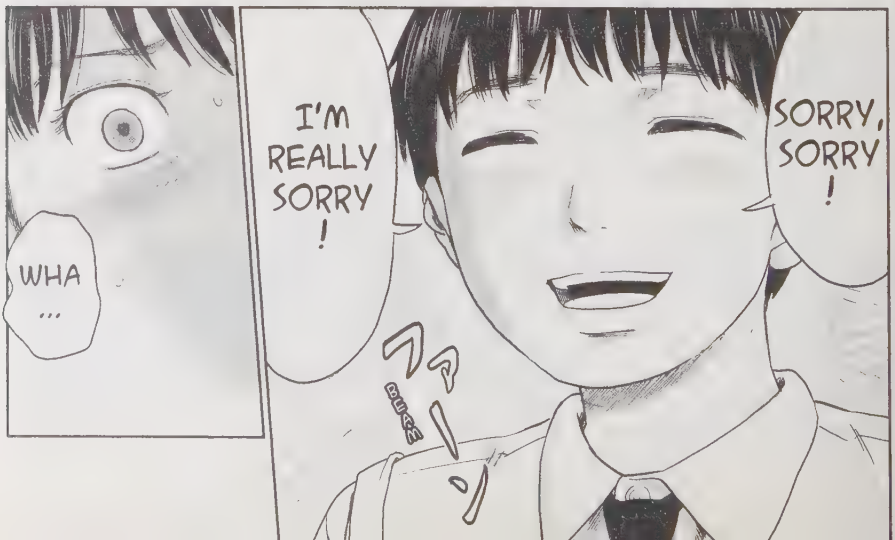

THE KIDS IN OUR CLASS ARE THE WORST.
EVERYBODY JUST DECIDING THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STOLE THE LUNCH MONEY ...

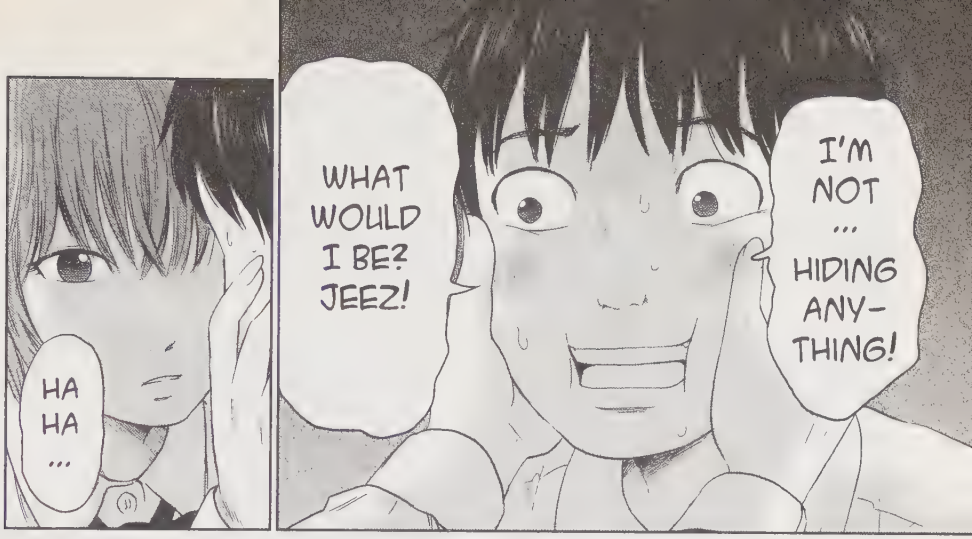

GRAB
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T GET THE BLAME.
I PROBABLY OUGHT NOT TO HAVE OPENED MY BIG MOUTH, BUT...

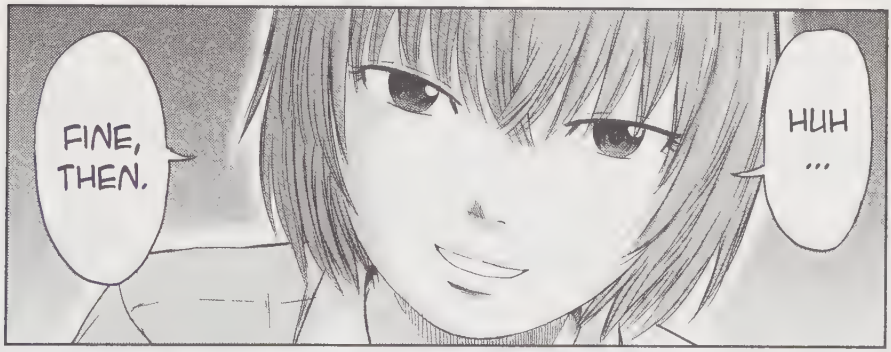
Wha ?

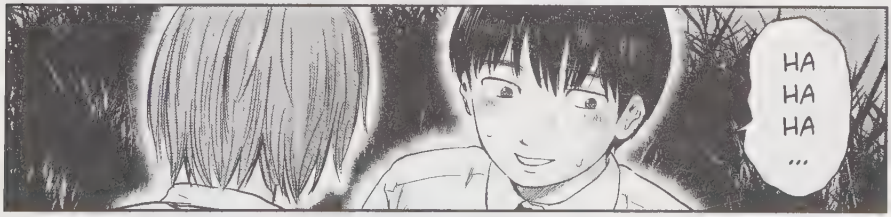

WE'VE ALREADY EATEN DINNER!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE, YOU HAVE TO CALL!
WE WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS ONLY YESTERDAY!


I WANT AN EXPLANATION!
WHAT'RE YOU GRINNING FOR?
I JUST ... HAD SOME STUFF TO DO ...
SORRY, MOM ...


WHA ...
I'M REALLY SORRY!
SORRY, SORRY!
COUGH


HA HA ...
WHAT WOULD I BE? JEEZ!
I'M NOT ... HIDING ANY-THING!


FINE, THEN.
HUH ...


HA HA HA ...

Takao !

Your hair is a rose
Your scent a blue twilight
Your transparent prism
easily brushes away
my sin beyond saving
I will change
I will strike a new match

DONE
...

...

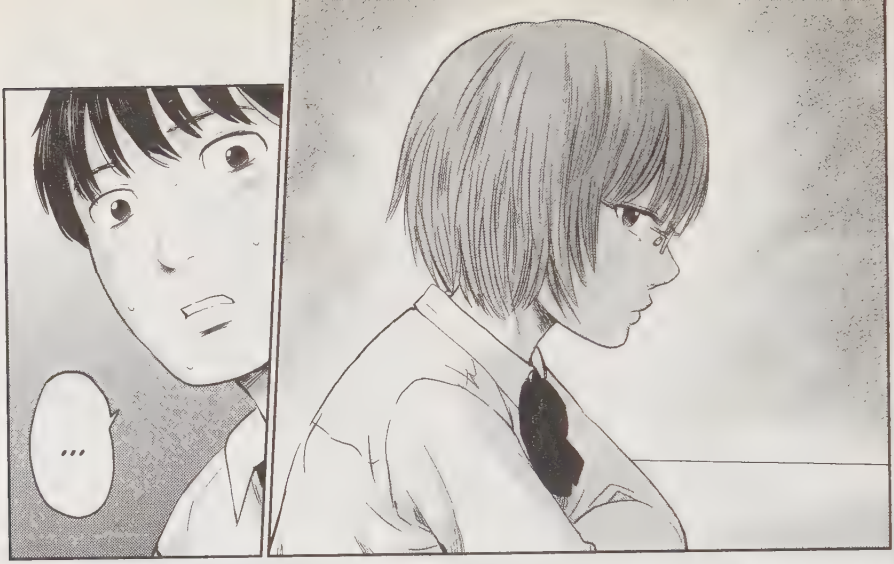
2-1
Saeki

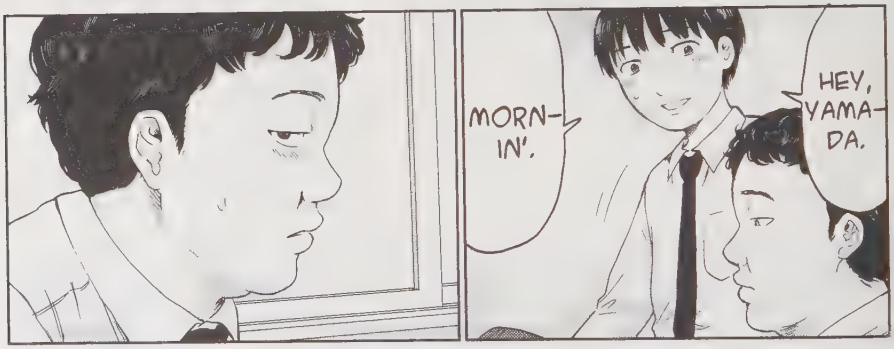
TUNK

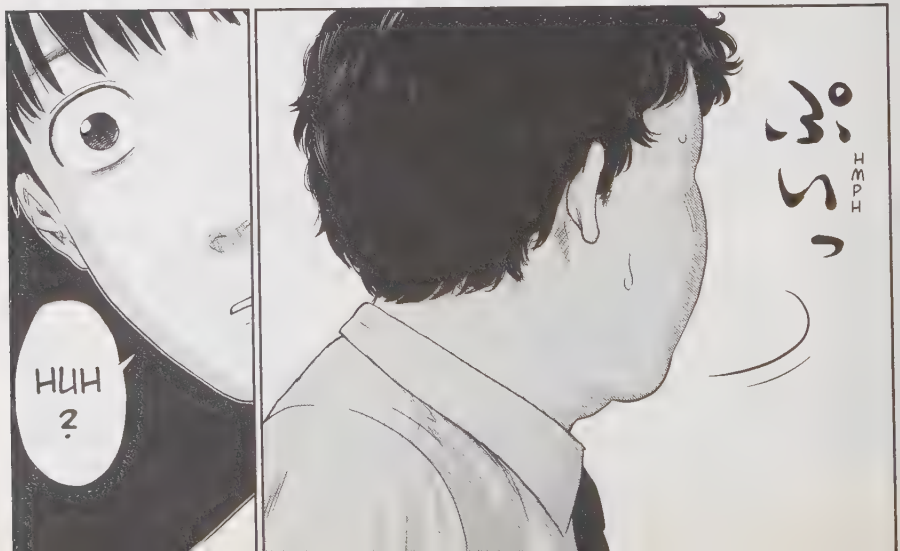
TAKAO!
トン TUP
トン TUP
トン TUP
AH, PUBER-TY...
...
サラ
SKRITCH
サラ
サラ

KASU-GA.
YOU WERE REALLY COOL
I'LL NEVER TAKE THIS UNIFORM OUT AGAIN.
SAEKI ...
I WON'T ADD TO MY SINS.
I'LL NEVER SMELL IT AGAIN.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.
I'M SORRY, SAEKI.

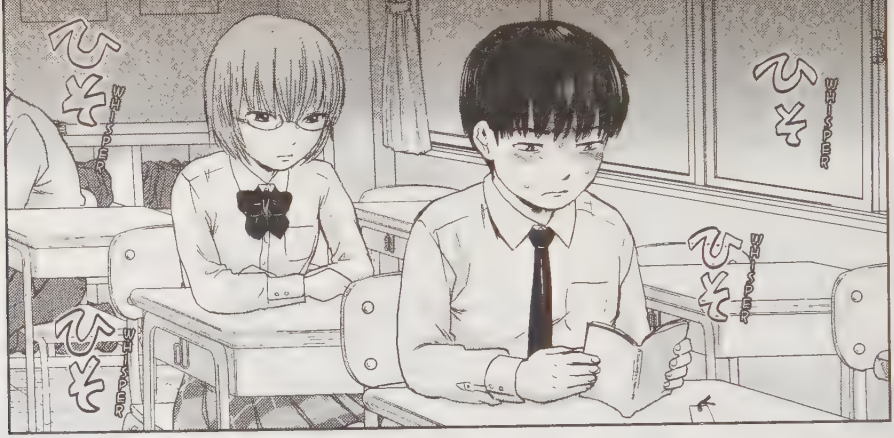
…
FWIT
ZZZAK
ZZZAK
ZZZAK
ZZZAK
SHF
金子光晴全集
金子光晴全集
萩原朔太郎

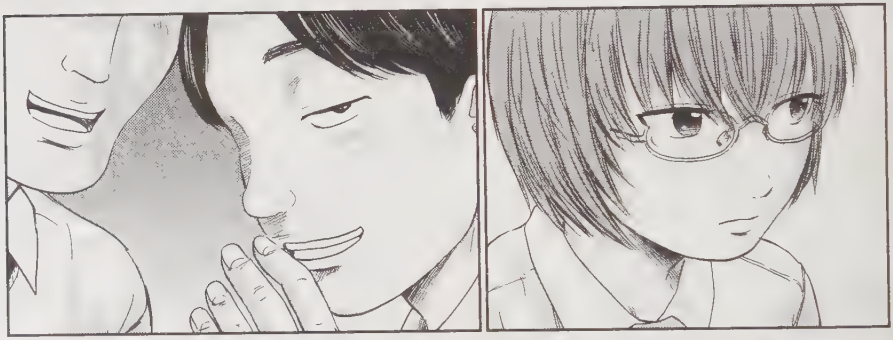

...

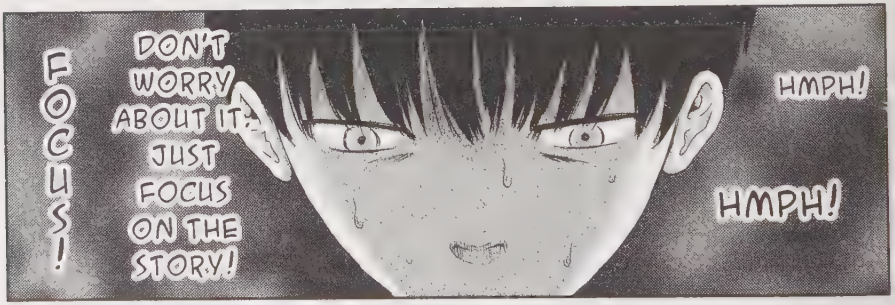

MORN-IN'.
HEY, YAMA-DA.


HUH ?
ぷい
HMPH

キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
コーン
HUM HUM
HMMM ♪
ガラッ
SLIDE
ザワ
MUTTER
ザワ
MUTTER
ザワ
MUTTER
...?

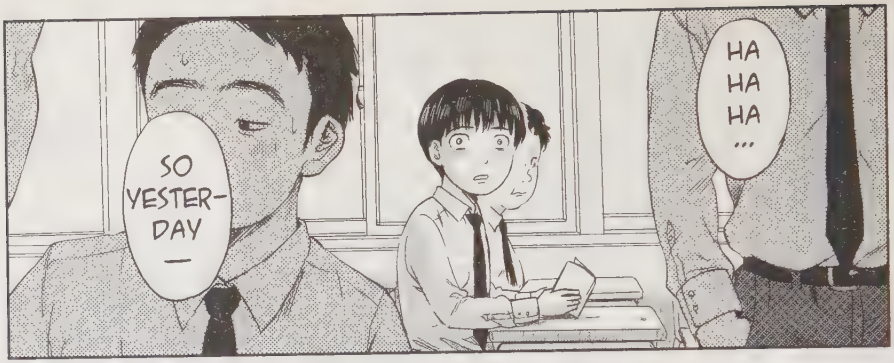

ひそ
ひそ
ひそ

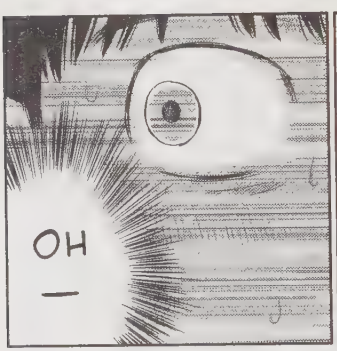


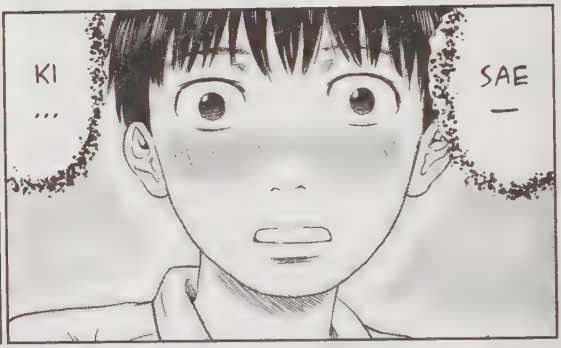

FOCUS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST FOCUS ON THE STORY!
HMPH!
HMPH!

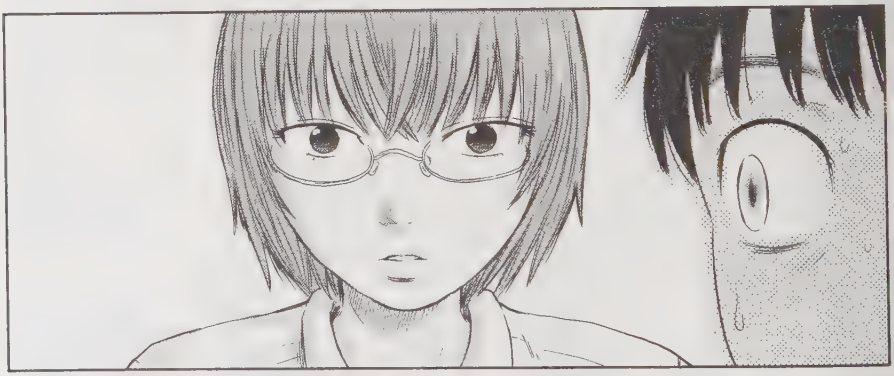
SHE

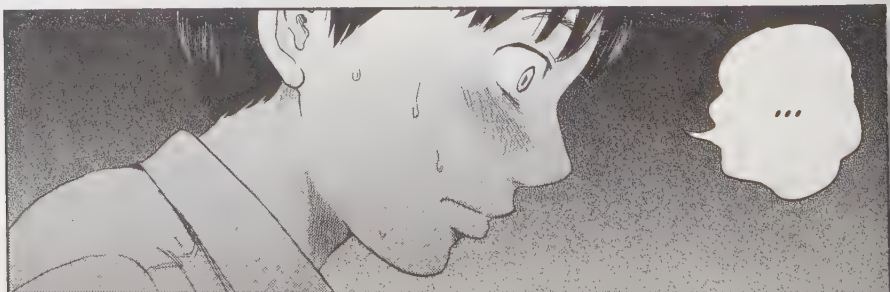
Aren't you gonna say good morning to Nakamura ?
Hey, Kasuga !
...!
...
ひそ
ひそ
ひそ
ひそ
ひそ
ひそ
...AH, I SEE HOW IT IS.
...


SO YESTER-DAY —
HA HA HA …

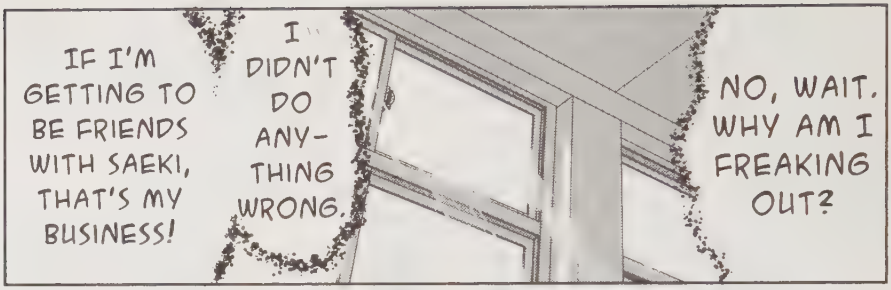

OH —

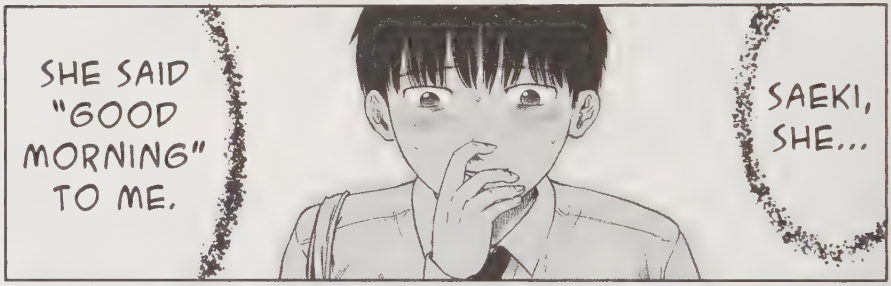

KI …
SAE —

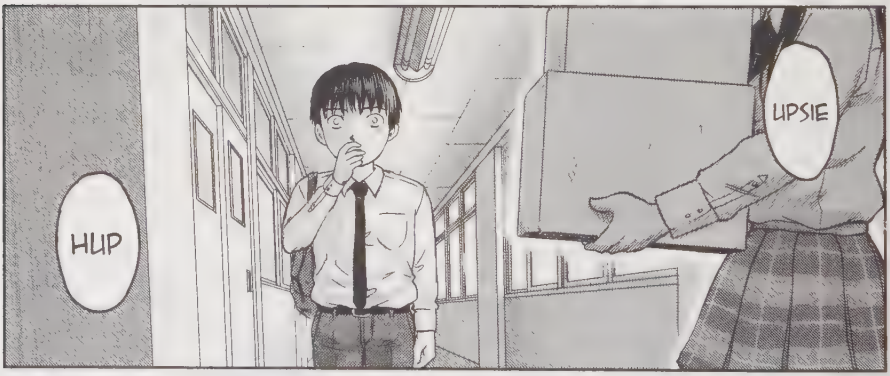


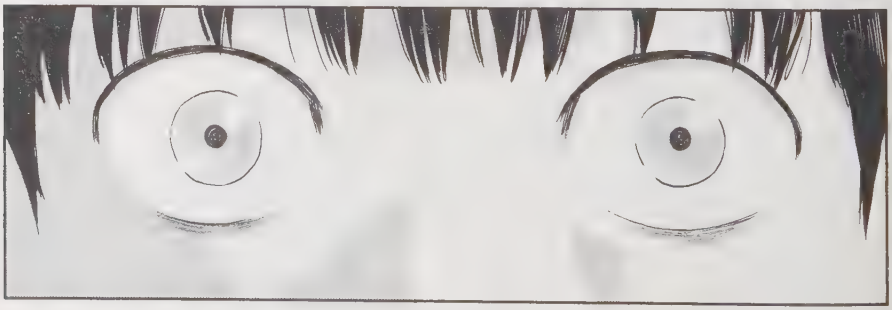

…

GOOD MORN-ING.
MURMUR
HM? JUST SAYING GOOD MORN-ING.
N-NA-NAKO, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!


IF I'M GETTING TO BE FRIENDS WITH SAEKI, THAT'S MY BUSINESS!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG.
NO, WAIT. WHY AM I FREAKING OUT?


SHE SAID "GOOD MORNING" TO ME.
SAEKI, SHE...

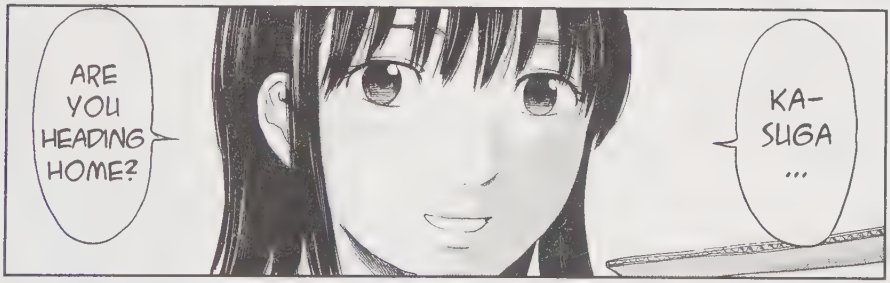

HUP
UPSIE

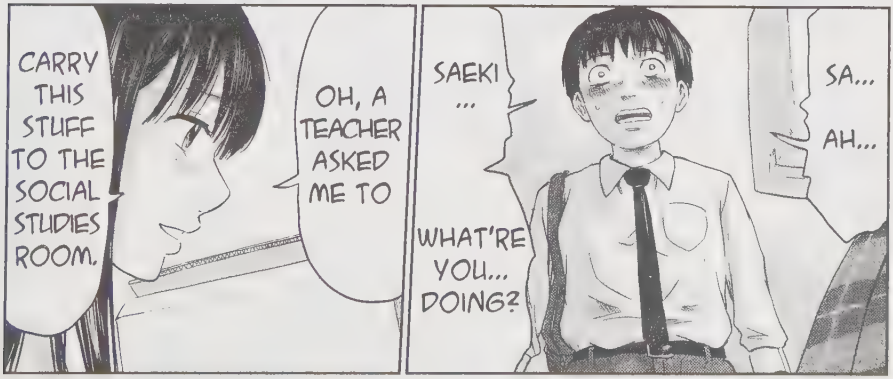


HUFF
HUFF
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
HUFF
HUFF
ARE YOU HIDING SOME-THING?
KA-SUGA ...
GOTTA GET TO OUR USUAL SPOT AND SET THINGS STRAIGHT ...
DID SHE CATCH ON?
I CAN'T TELL IF SHE'S THICK OR REALLY PERCEPTIVE, BUT...

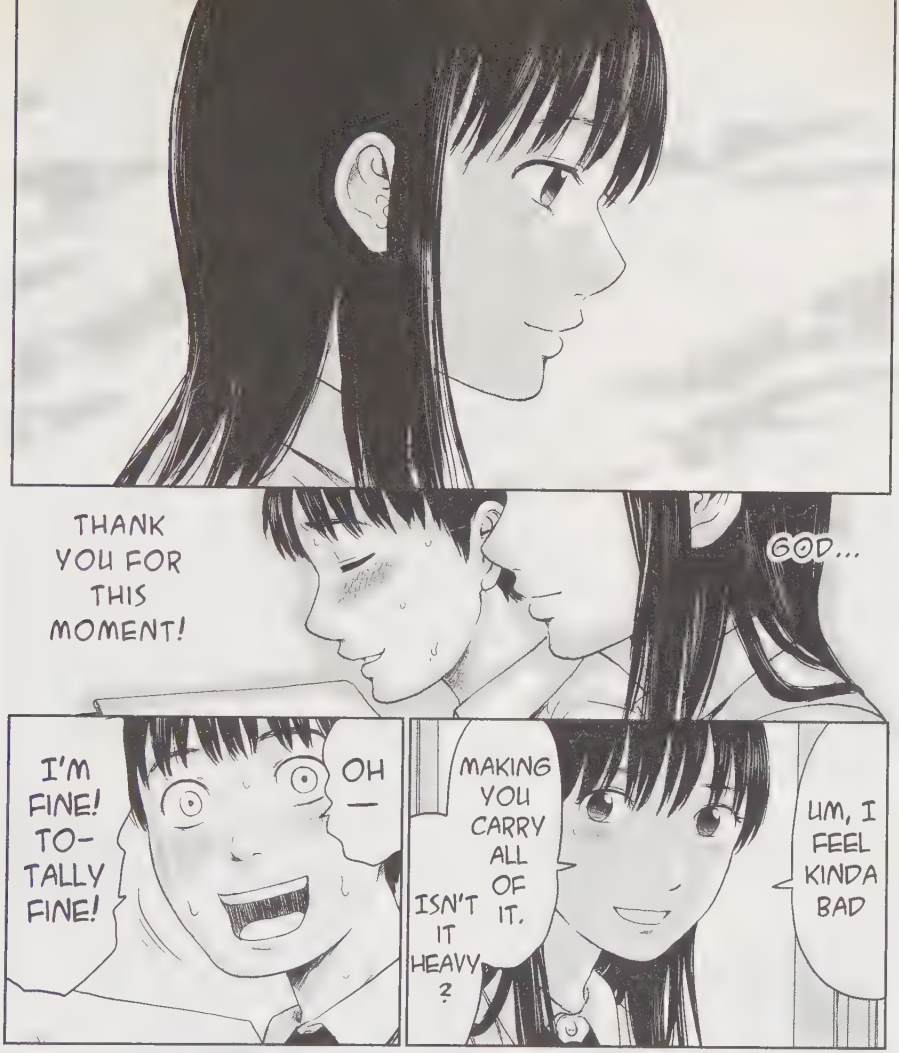
AH...
C-C-CAN I
HELP, HELP YOU?
GEE, THANKS!

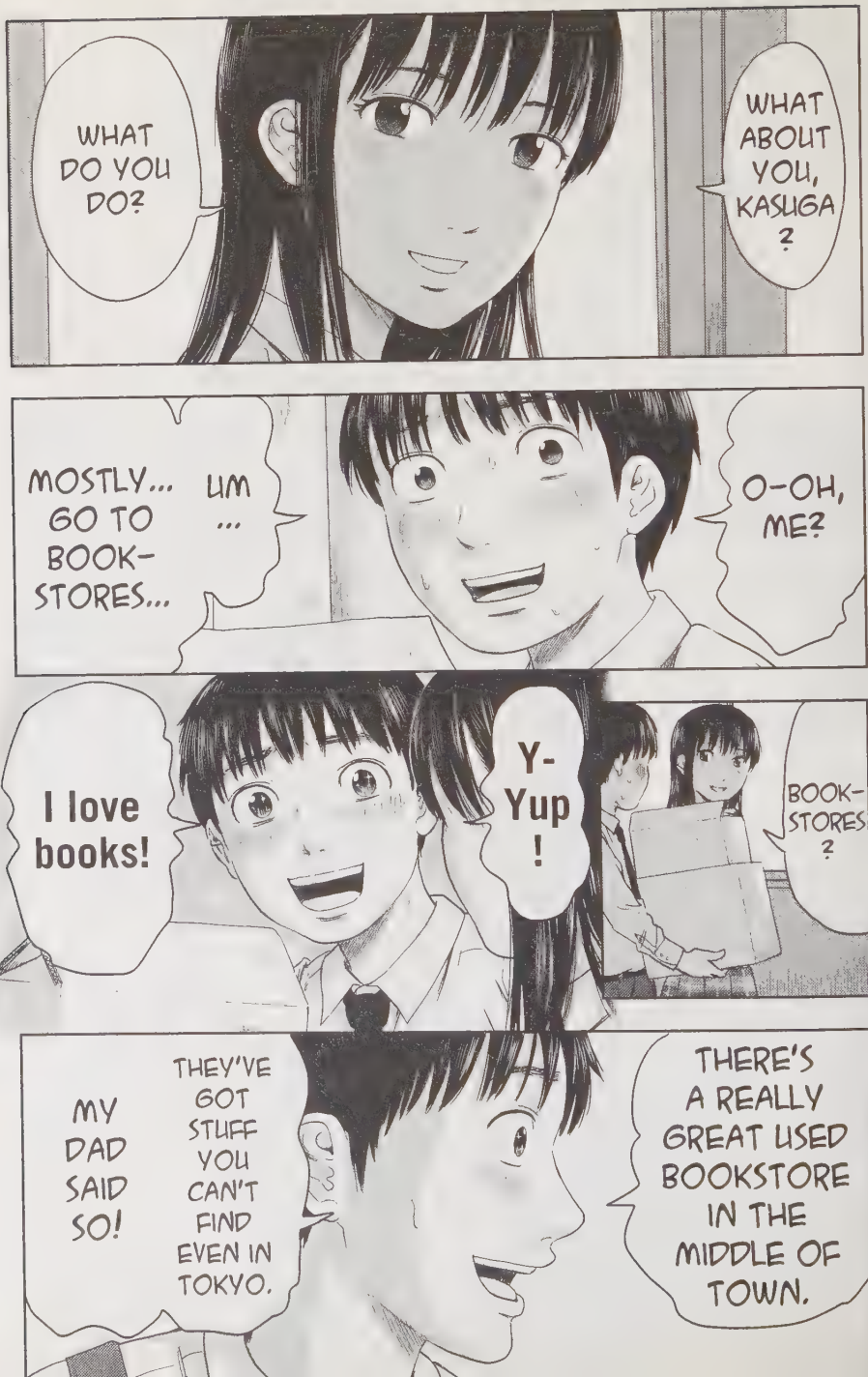
OH.
消火栓


ARE YOU HEADING HOME?
KA-SUGA ...

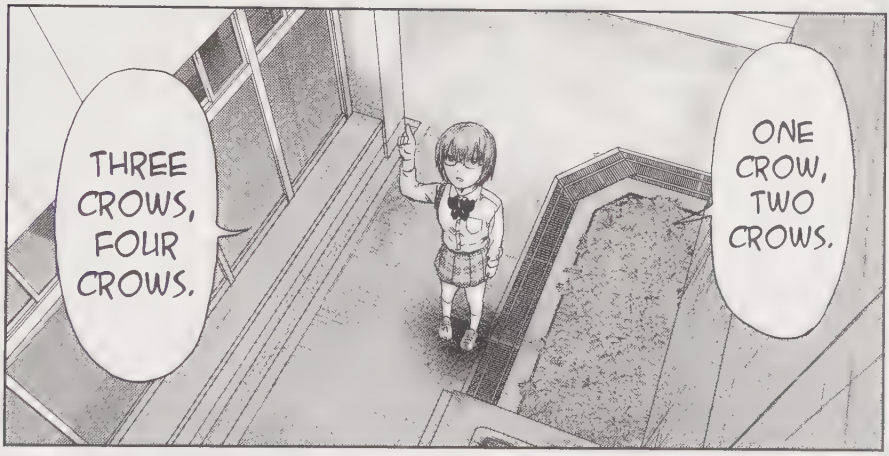

CARRY THIS STUFF TO THE SOCIAL STUDIES ROOM.
OH, A TEACHER ASKED ME TO
SAEKI ...
WHAT'RE YOU... DOING?
SA...
AH...

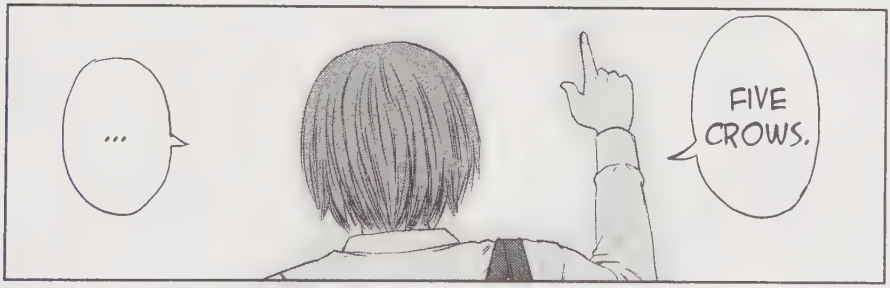
HMM, WELL ...
YOU KNOW, LIKE... AFTER SCHOOL, OR ON WEEK-ENDS!
DO?
AND WALK OUR DOG.
ALSO I PRACTICE PIANO...
THERE'S A TUTOR THAT COMES TO MY HOUSE 4 TIMES A WEEK.
STUDY, I GUESS.
WELL ...
WOW... ISN'T THAT TOUGH?
I-I SEE ...
SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD PLAY MORE.
TO BE HONEST...

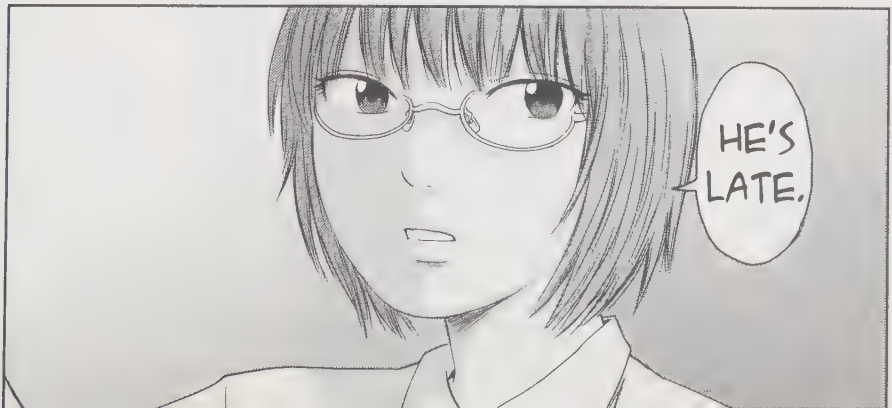

THANK YOU FOR THIS MOMENT!
GOD...
I'M FINE! TO-TALLY FINE!
OH—
ISN'T IT HEAVY?
MAKING YOU CARRY ALL OF IT.
UM, I FEEL KINDA BAD
WH-WHAT DO YOU USUALLY D-DO?
S-S-SAEKI,
UM—!


WHAT DO YOU DO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KASUGA?
MOSTLY... GO TO BOOK-STORES...
UM...
O-OH, ME?
I love books!
Y-Yup!
BOOK-STORES?
MY DAD SAID SO!
THEY'VE GOT STUFF YOU CAN'T FIND EVEN IN TOKYO.
THERE'S A REALLY GREAT USED BOOKSTORE IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN.

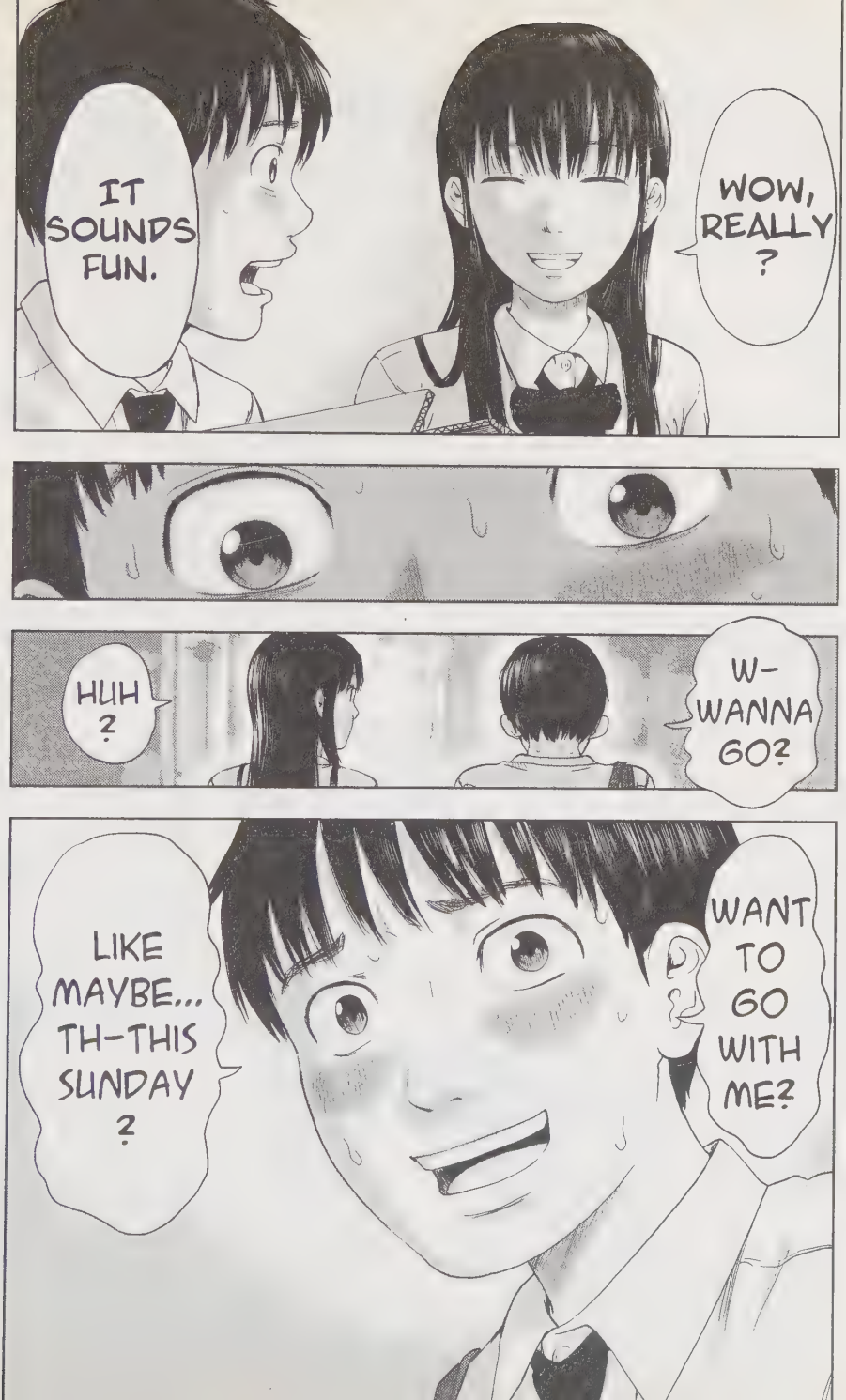
CAW
CAW

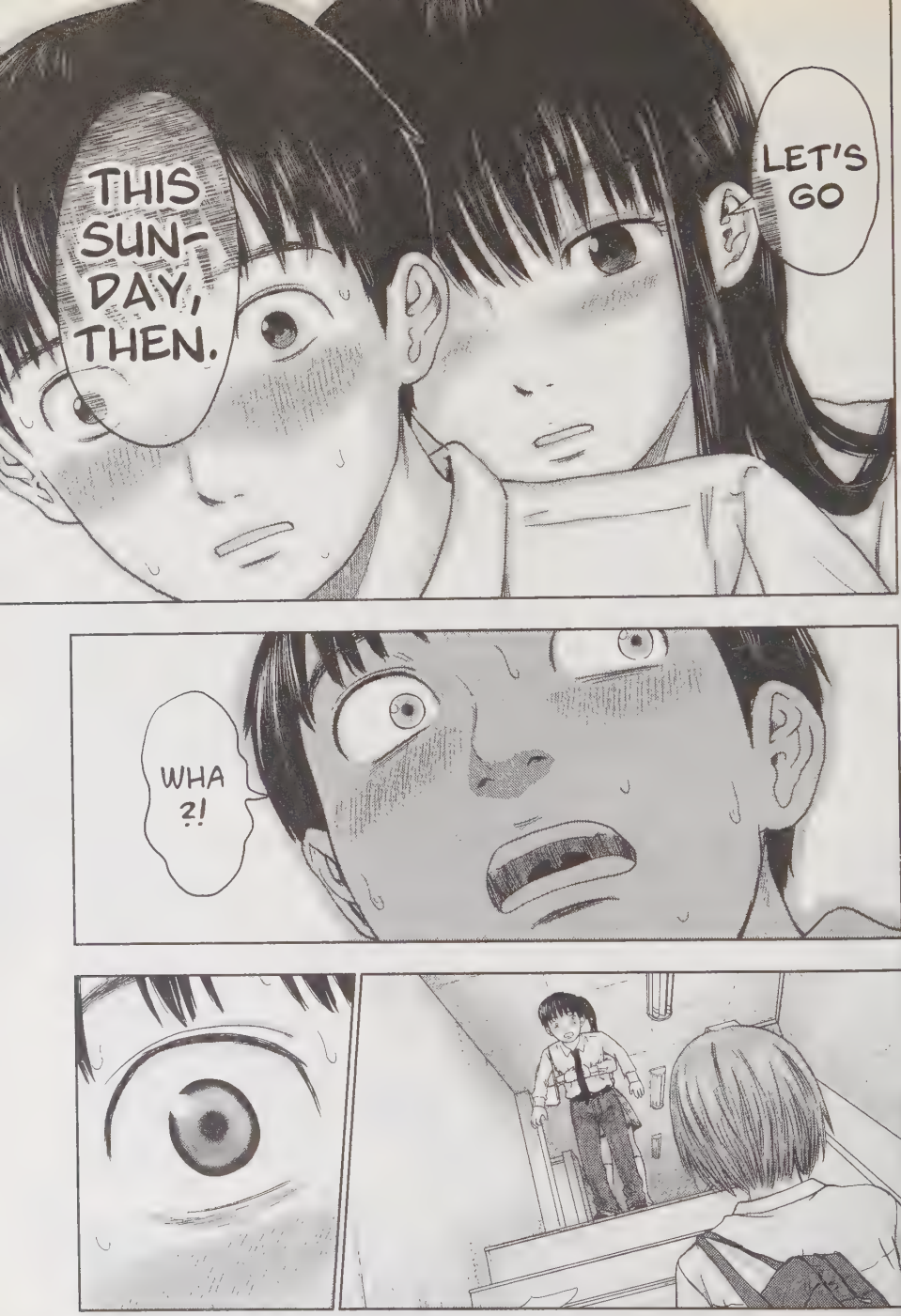

THREE CROWS, FOUR CROWS.
ONE CROW, TWO CROWS.


...
FIVE CROWS.


HE'S LATE.

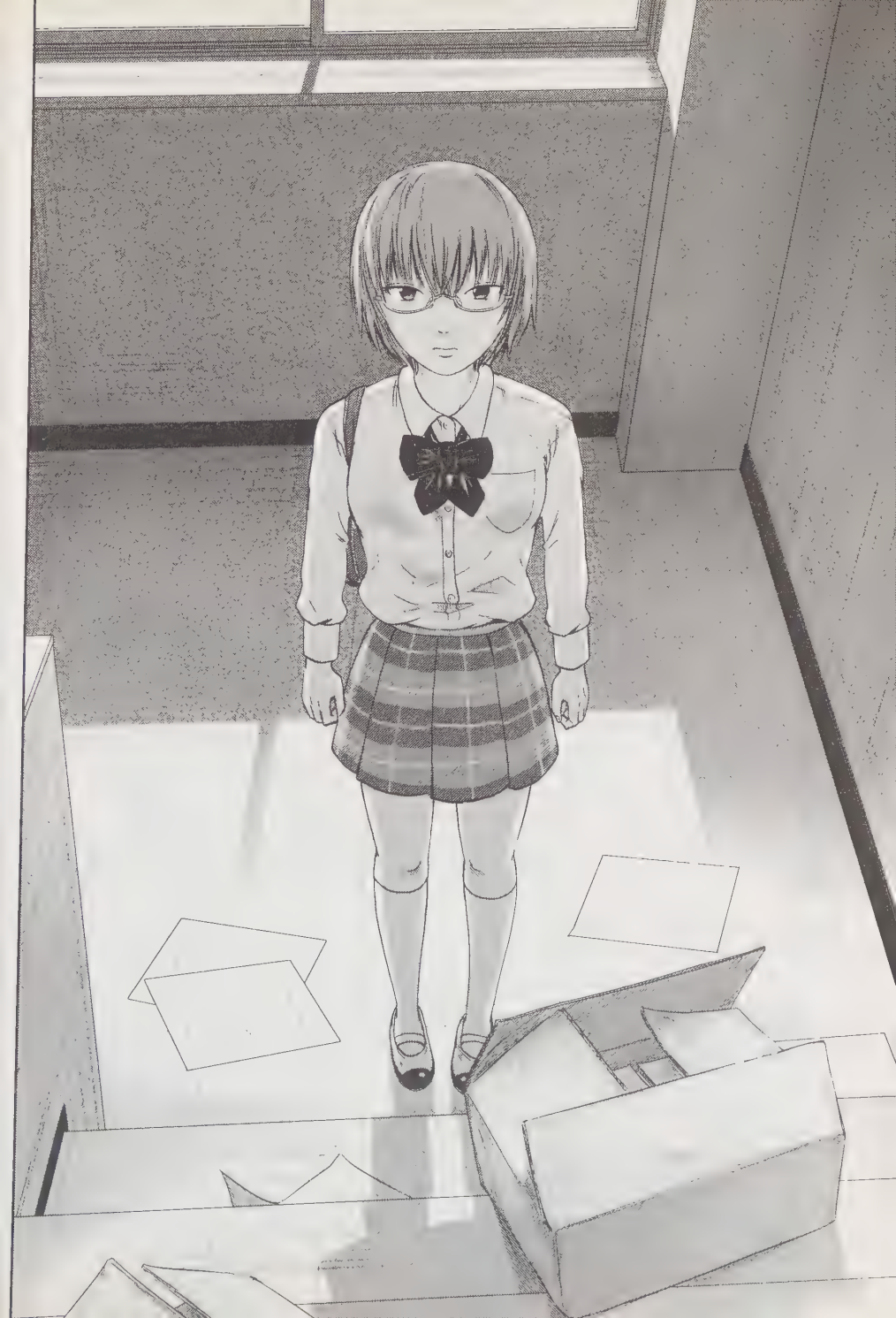
HUH ?
AH ...
!!
LURCH

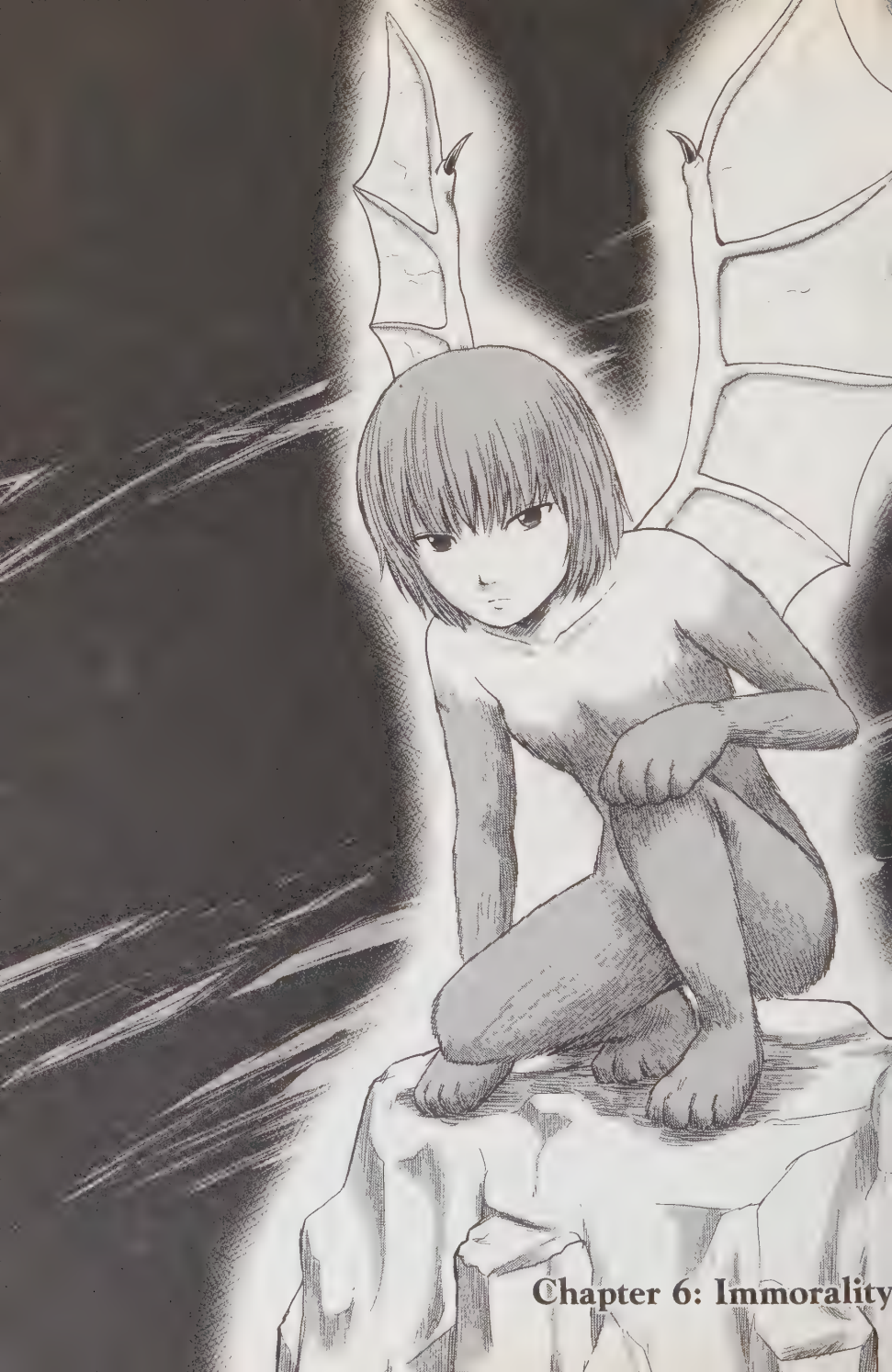

IT SOUNDS FUN.
WOW, REALLY?
HUH?
W-WANNA GO?
LIKE MAYBE... TH-THIS SUNDAY?
WANT TO GO WITH ME?


THIS SUN-DAY, THEN.
LET'S GO
WHA ?!

LOOK OUT!
THUMP
UM...
...SURE.

くるっ
スタ TUP
スタ TUP
スタ TUP
スタ TUP
ア CAWW





Chapter 6: Immorality

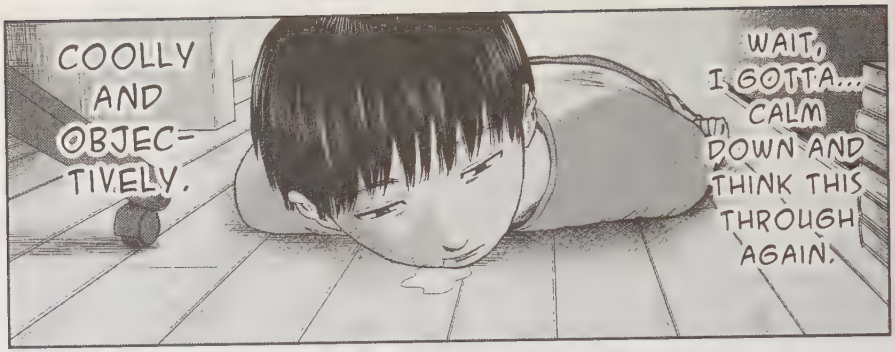
Author Notes: 4

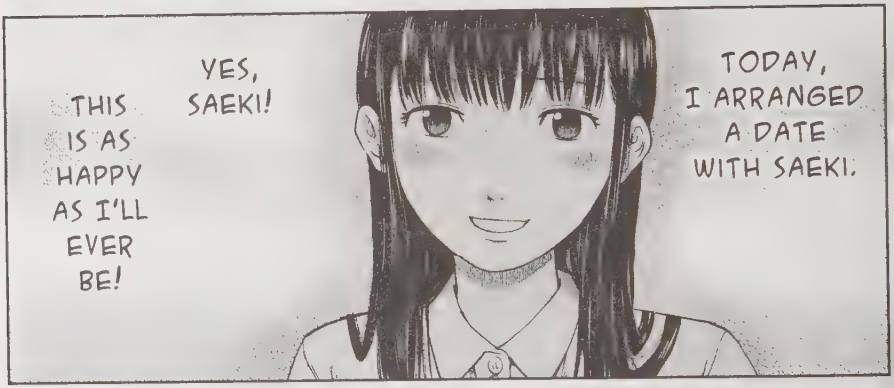
Chapter 5

The model for Kasuga's friend Hiruta is a friend of mine since middle school. What I still remember is the time he asked me "Doesn't so-and-so piss you off?" about our class bully, prompting me to badmouth, "To be honest, he does."
Later he ratted me out to the bully, who confronted me saying, "You bastard, so I piss you off?" But I did a lot of terrible things to him too, so I guess we'll call it even...

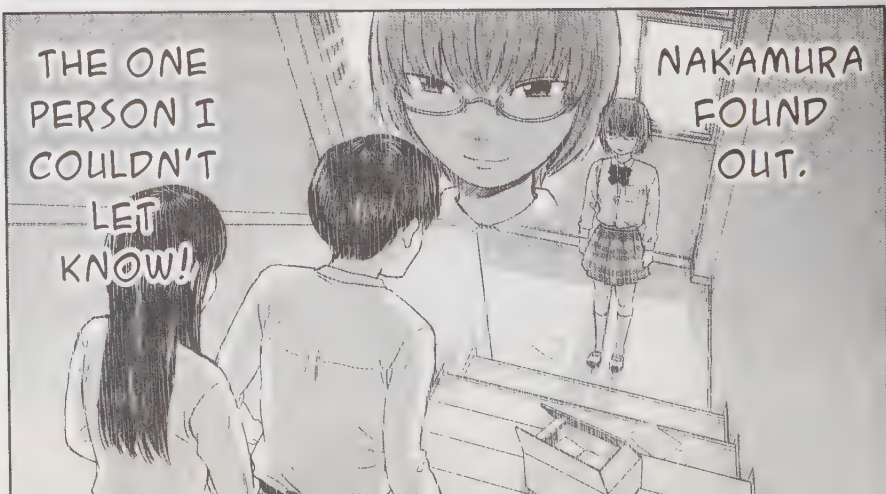
Chapter 6

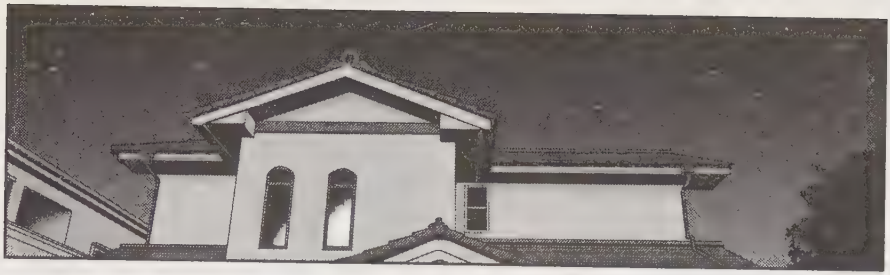
What's a pervert, really?
The idea of "pervert" has the aspect of shoving things we don't understand in a box so we can feel better about ourselves.
But the truth is that more or less every human has some perversion hidden away in their hearts.
I'd be perfectly happy to have people read this manga and just think, "Ew, what a pervert," but if anybody stops even a moment to wonder, "What does perversion mean to me?" then I'm really glad to have created this work.

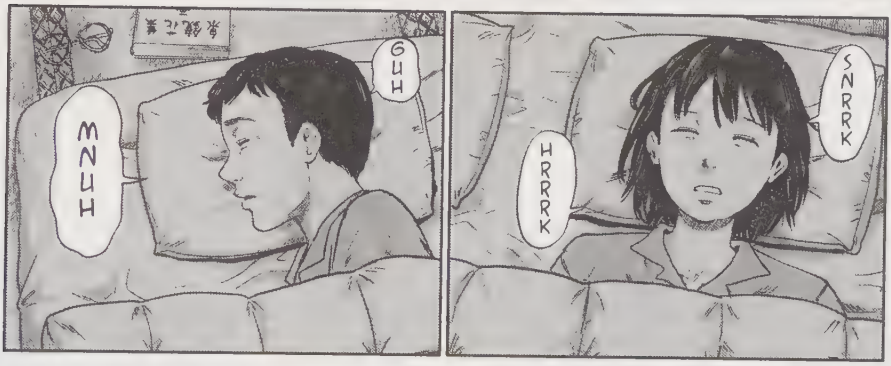

COOLLY AND OBJEC-TIVELY.
WAIT, I GOTTA... CALM DOWN AND THINK THIS THROUGH AGAIN.

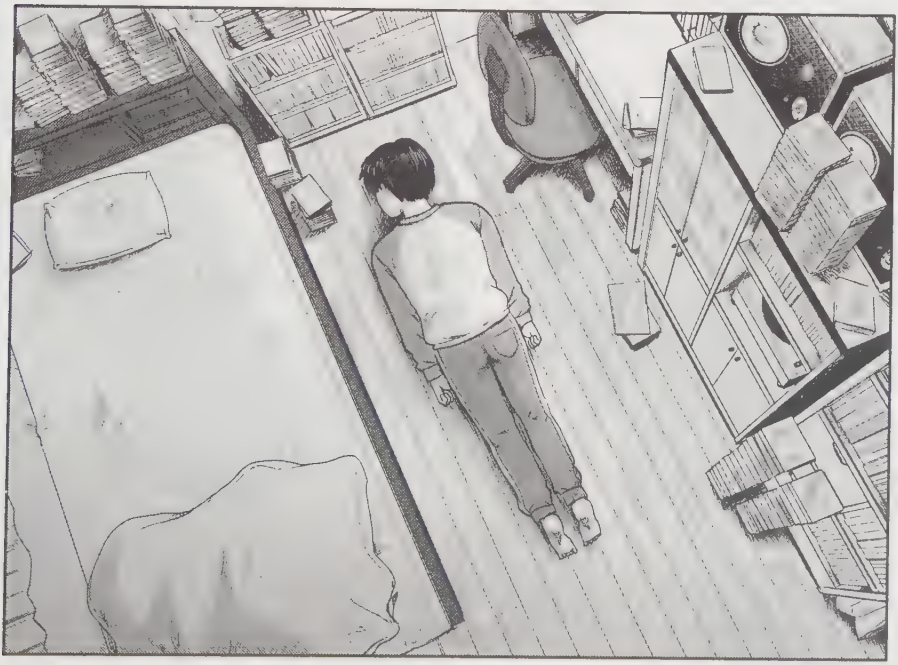

THIS IS AS HAPPY AS I'LL EVER BE!
YES, SAEKI!
TODAY, I ARRANGED A DATE WITH SAEKI.

BUT THEN...

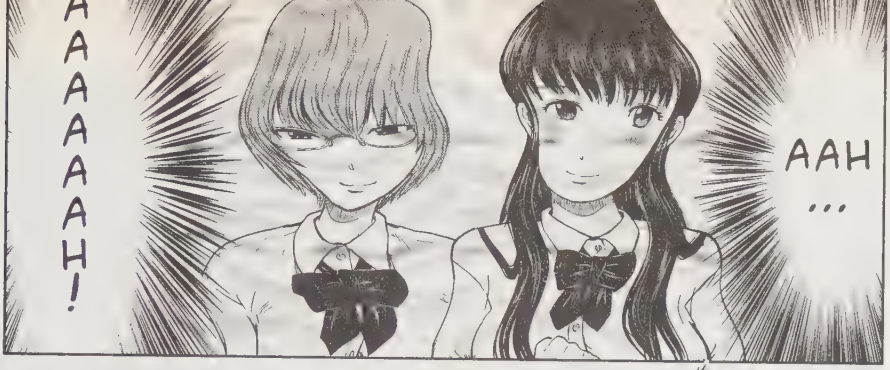

THE ONE PERSON I COULDN'T LET KNOW!
NAKAMURA FOUND OUT.

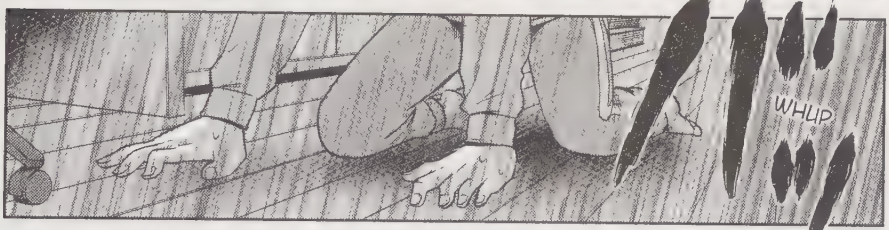



GUH
MNUH
SNRRK
HRRRK



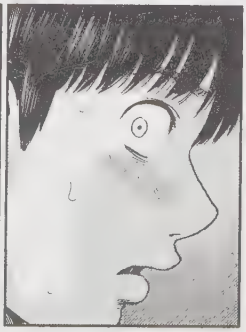
KLAK
CHOK
KLAK
TIKK
KLAK

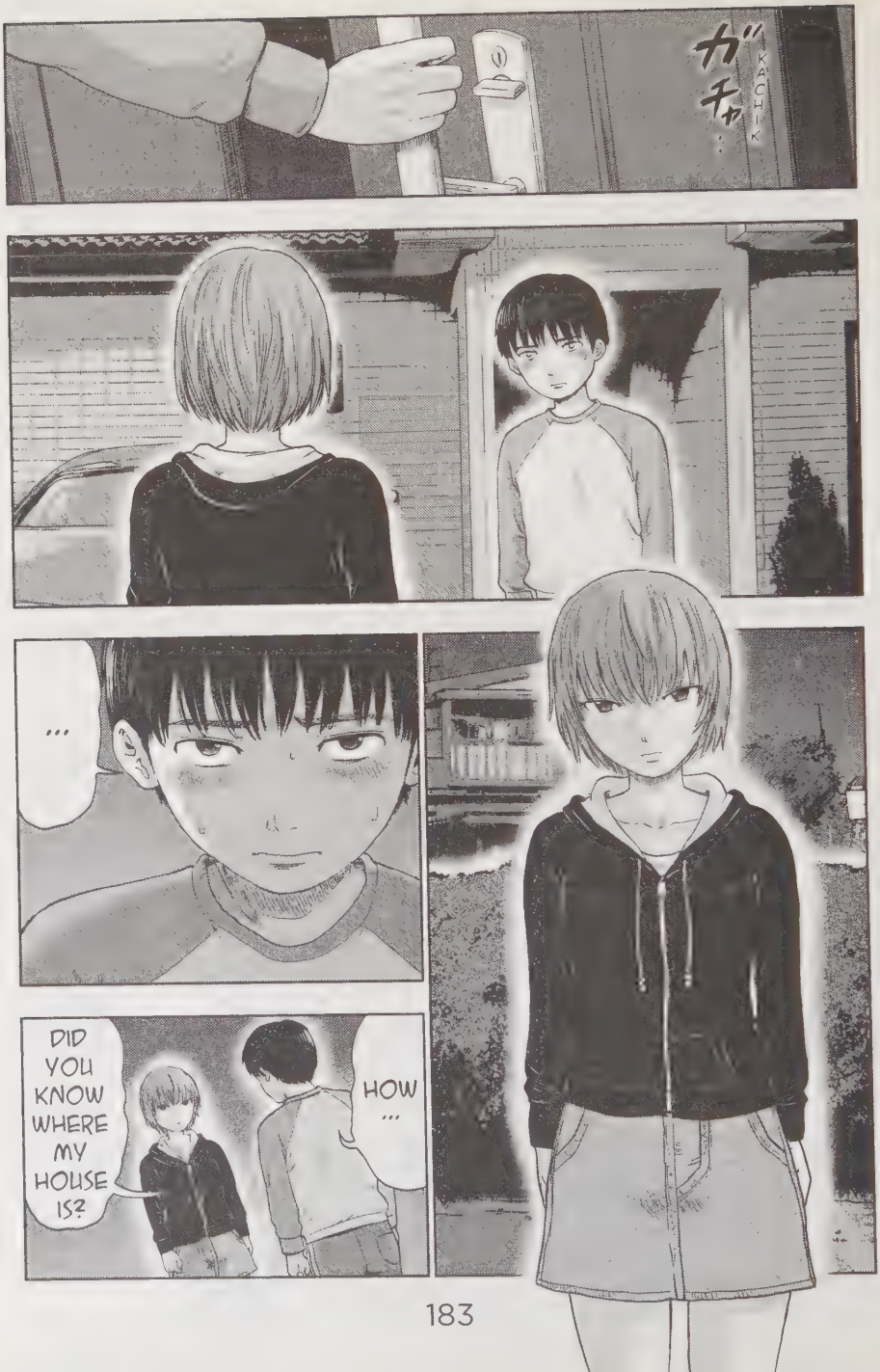

AAAAAAAH!
AAH
...

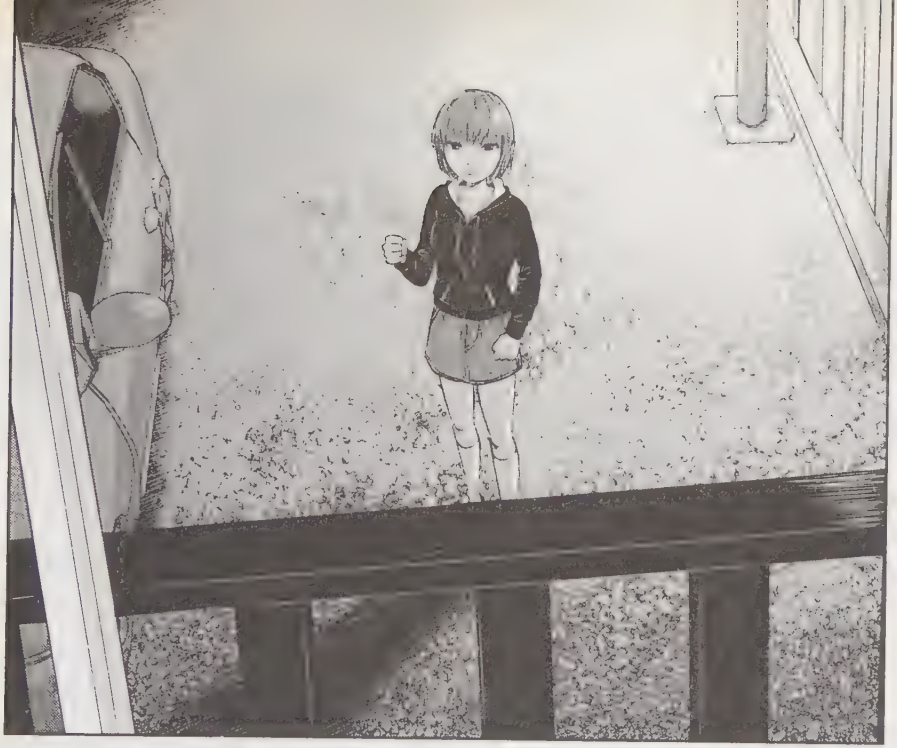

WHUP

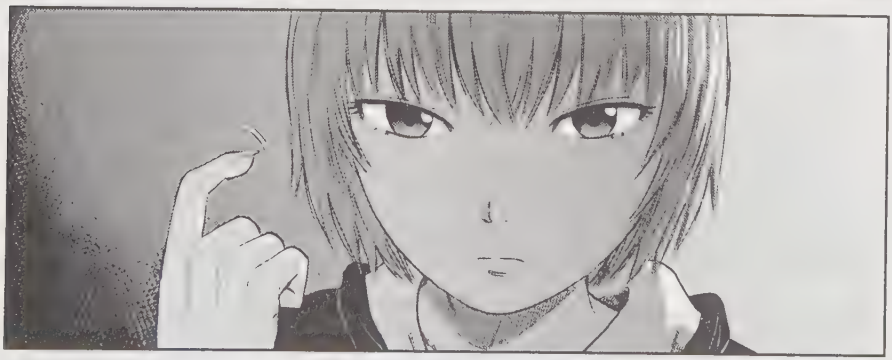
KLAK
I'VE GOTTA READ TO WIN MYSELF BACK!
A BOOK! I'VE GOTTA READ A BOOK!

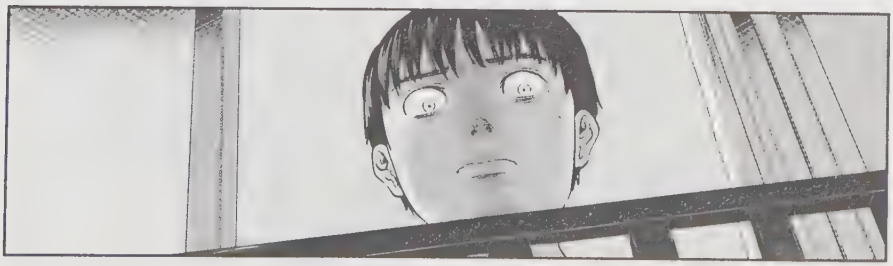
...



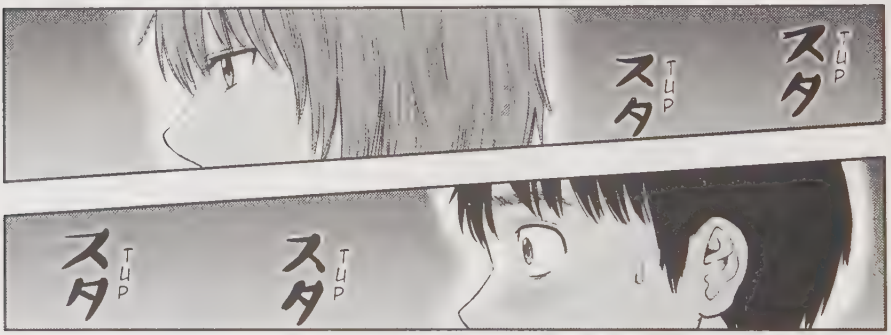

ガチャ…
…
HOW …
DID YOU KNOW WHERE MY HOUSE IS?

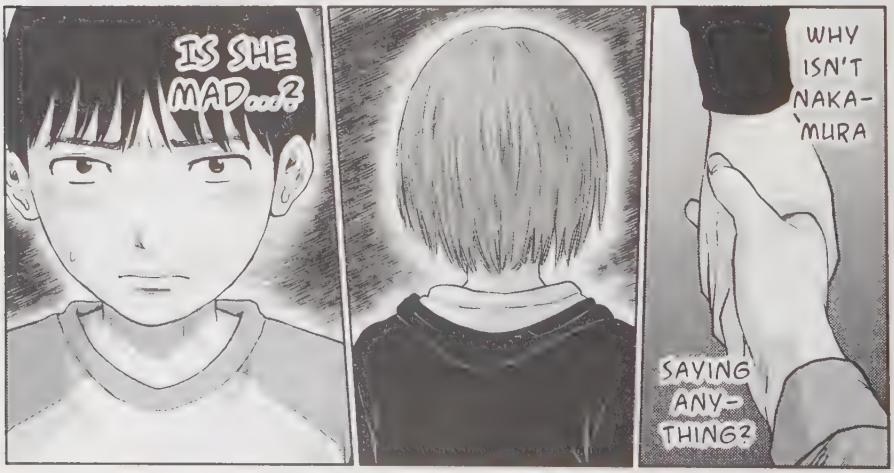


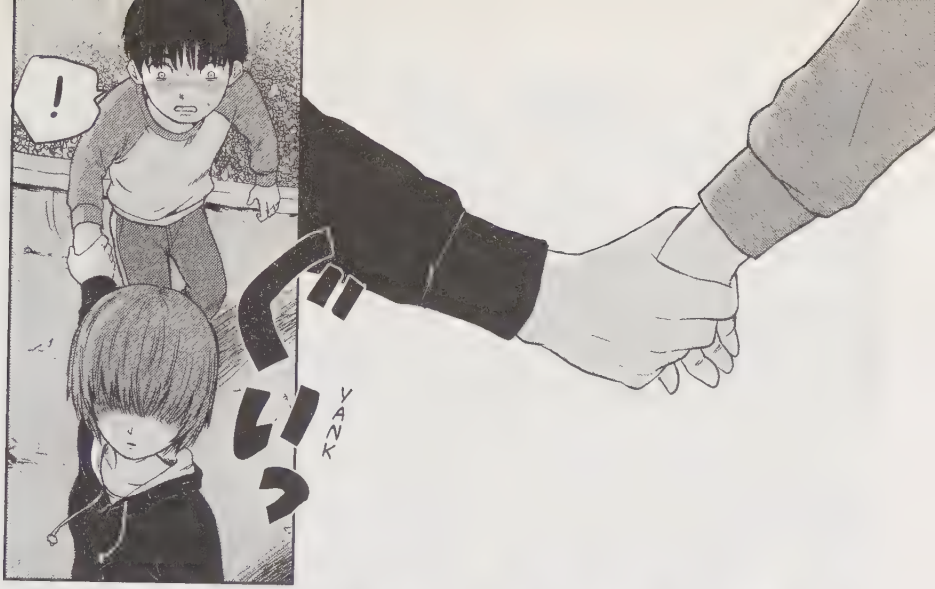


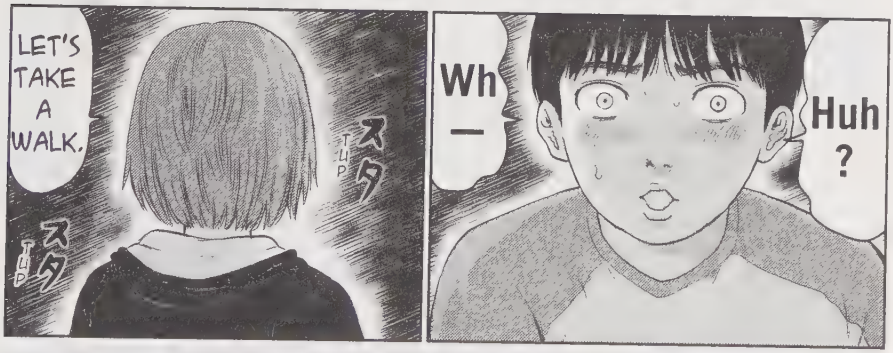


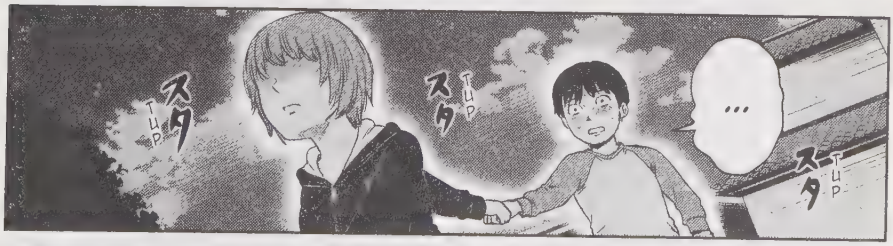
CHAPTER-1


スタ TUP
スタ TUP
スタ TUP
スタ TUP

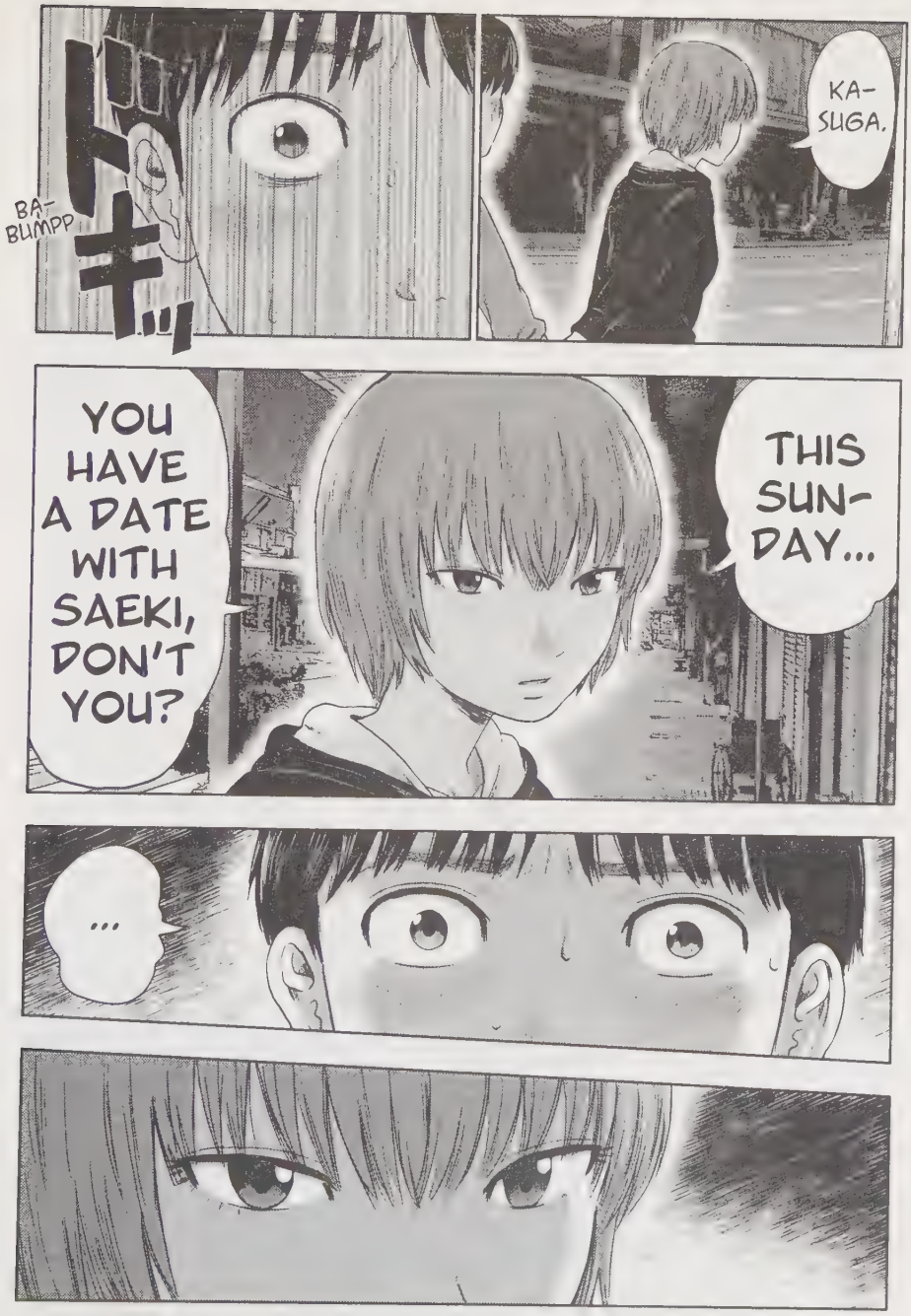

IS SHE MAD...?
WHY ISN'T NAKA-MURA SAYING ANY-THING?


!
ぐいっ
YANK


LET'S TAKE A WALK.
スタ
TUP
スタ
TUP
Wh—
Huh?

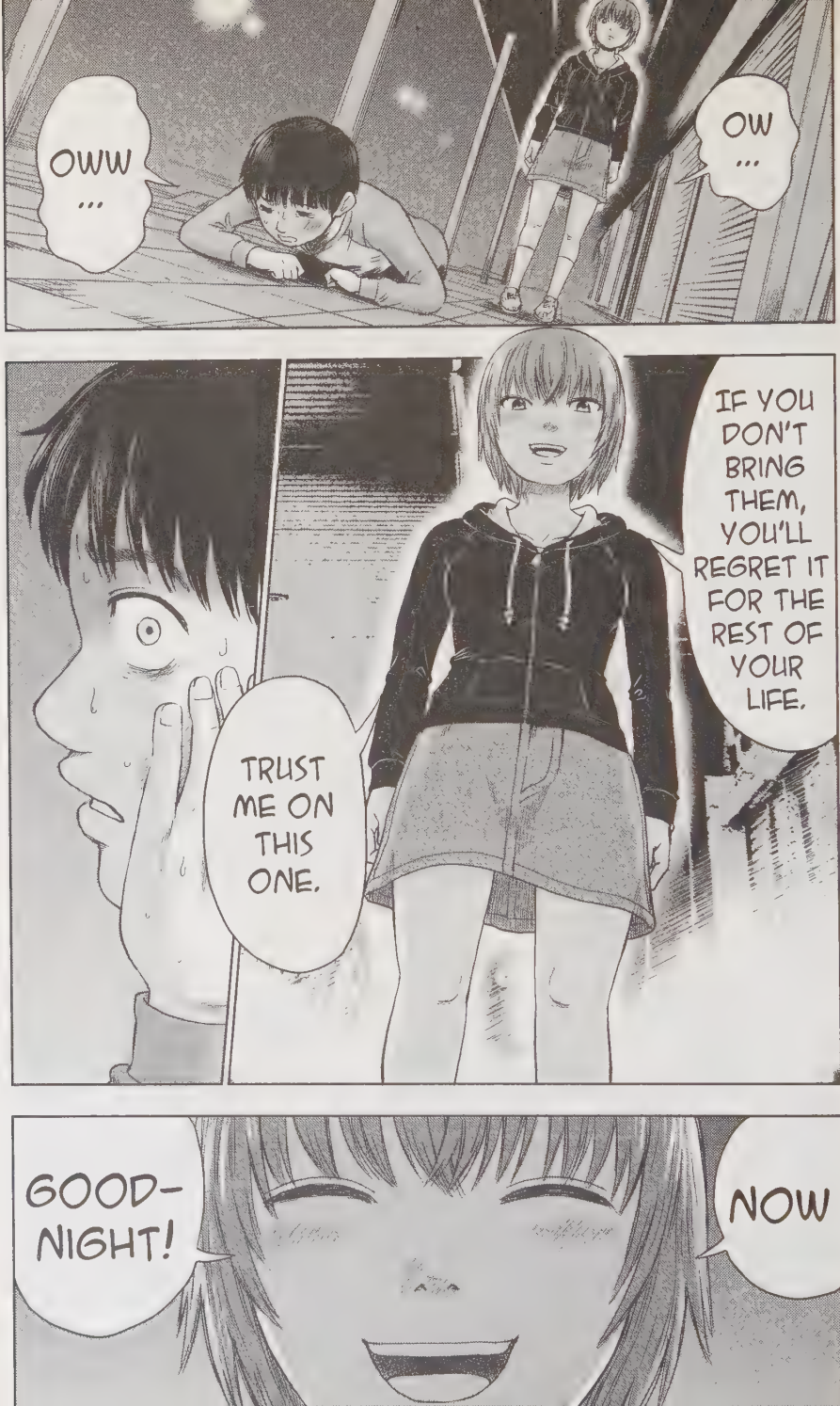

スタ
TUP
スタ
TUP
スタ
TUP
...

AT WHAT? AT ME?
サンアイ
SHE IS MAD!
COULD IT BE...
U-UM, WELL...
FEELS SOME-THING FOR ME?
COULD IT BE NAKA-MURA
SHE'S JEAL-OUS?
ドクン
BABUMP
ドクン
BABUMP
ドクン
BABUMP

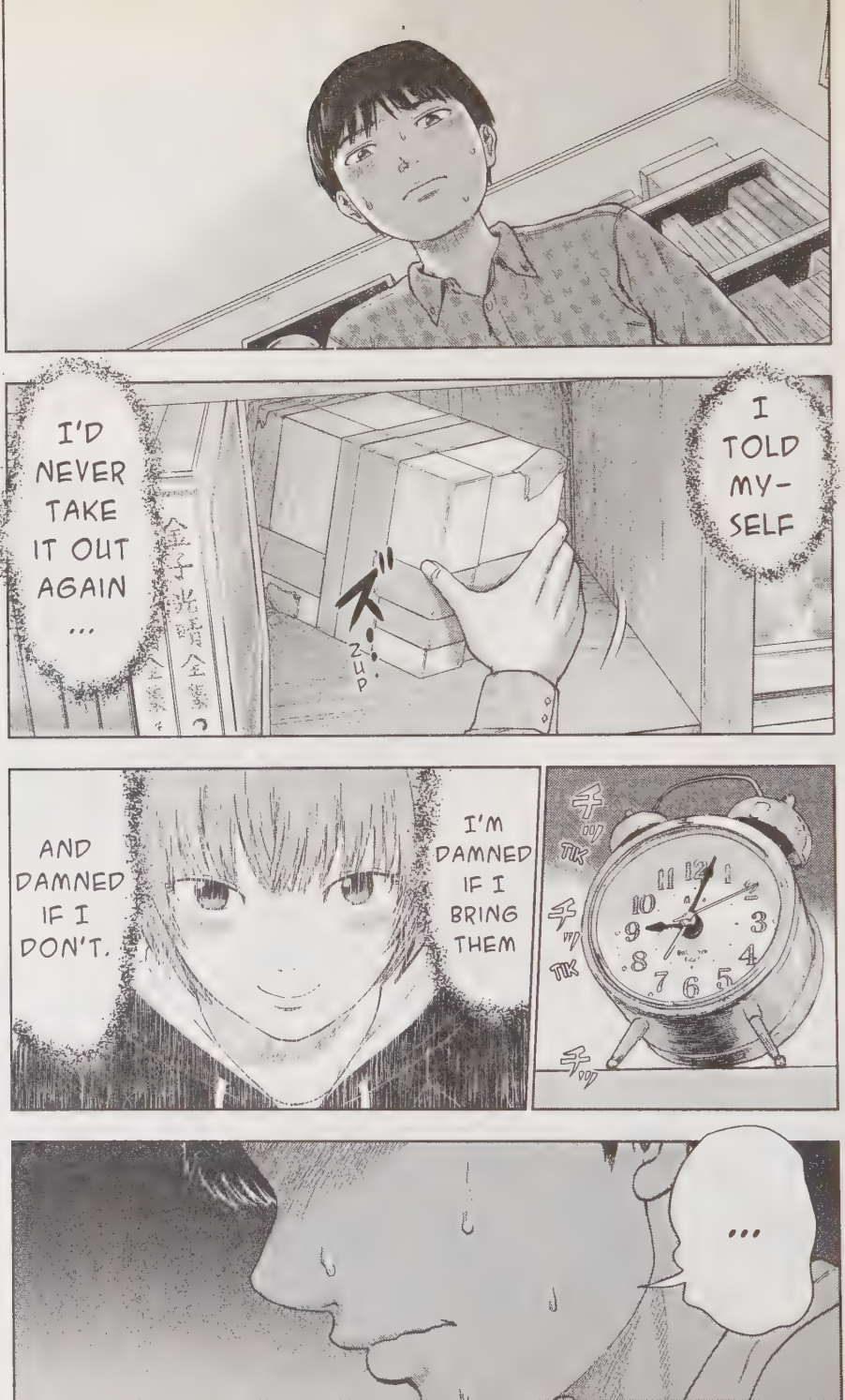

BA-BUMPP
KA-SUGA.
THIS SUN-DAY...
YOU HAVE A DATE WITH SAEKI, DON'T YOU?
...

WHERE ARE YOU MEETING HER? AND WHEN?
AT 10 AM.
IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATE...
OKAY, YOU'LL MEET UP WITH ME HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THAT.
AND BRING SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES.
HUH ?!

Well done!
HUH?
WHA...
UH... YEAH...
ARE YOU HAPPY? EXCITED?
IS YOUR HEART POUNDING?
WHAT?
THANKS.
TH...
WHAT?

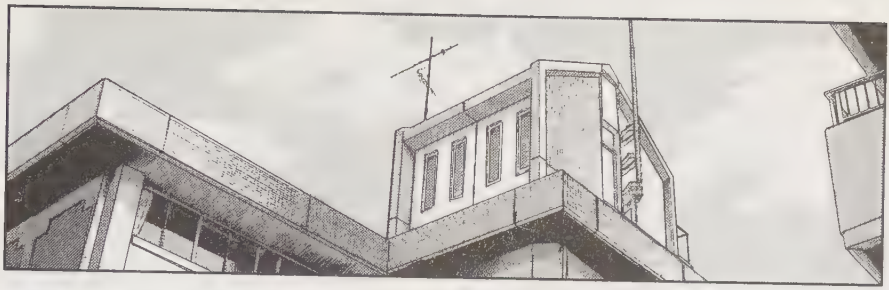

OW...
OWW...
IF YOU DON'T BRING THEM, YOU'LL REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
TRUST ME ON THIS ONE.
NOW
GOOD-NIGHT!

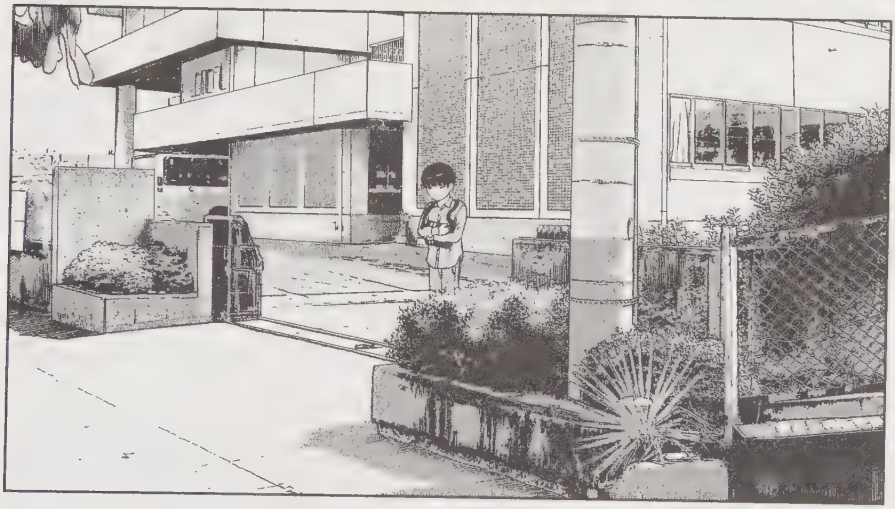
NO, WAIT...
WHY ?!
JUST DO IT.
YOU GOT THAT ?
NO, I DON'T !
I WON'T! I WILL NOT!
I'm not gonna do it!
SMAKK
ZSHKK

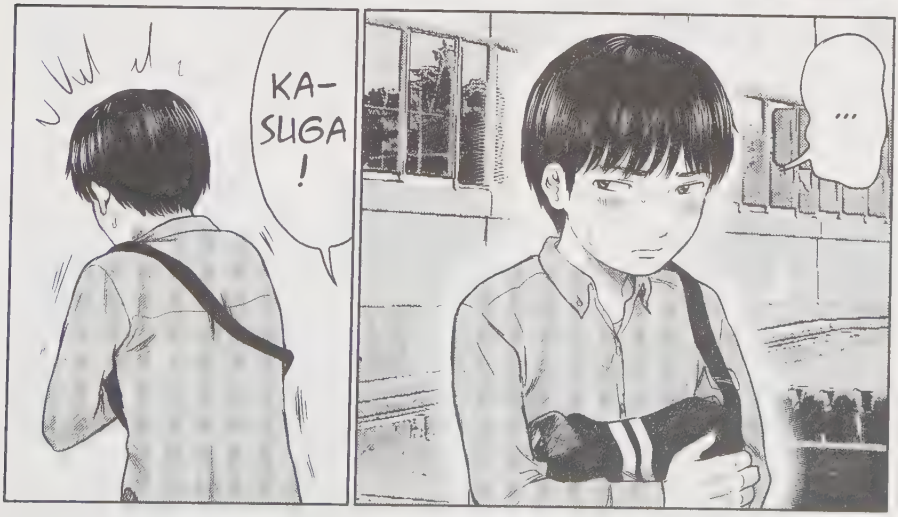

I'D NEVER TAKE IT OUT AGAIN ...
I TOLD MY-SELF
ズ!
zup
AND DAMNED IF I DON'T.
I'M DAMNED IF I BRING THEM
チ
TIK
チ
TIK
チ
...

GUH ...
UGH

OVER HERE.
C'MON, HURRY.
GO ON IN.
WHA ...?
THIS IS THE GIRLS' BATH-ROOM ...
Hurry up.

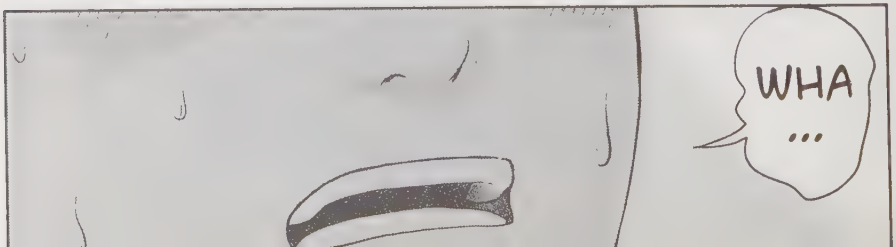





KA-
SUGA
!
...

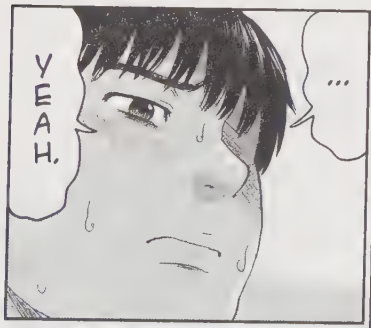
UNDER-
NEATH
YOUR
CLOTHES.
PUT
THEM
ON.

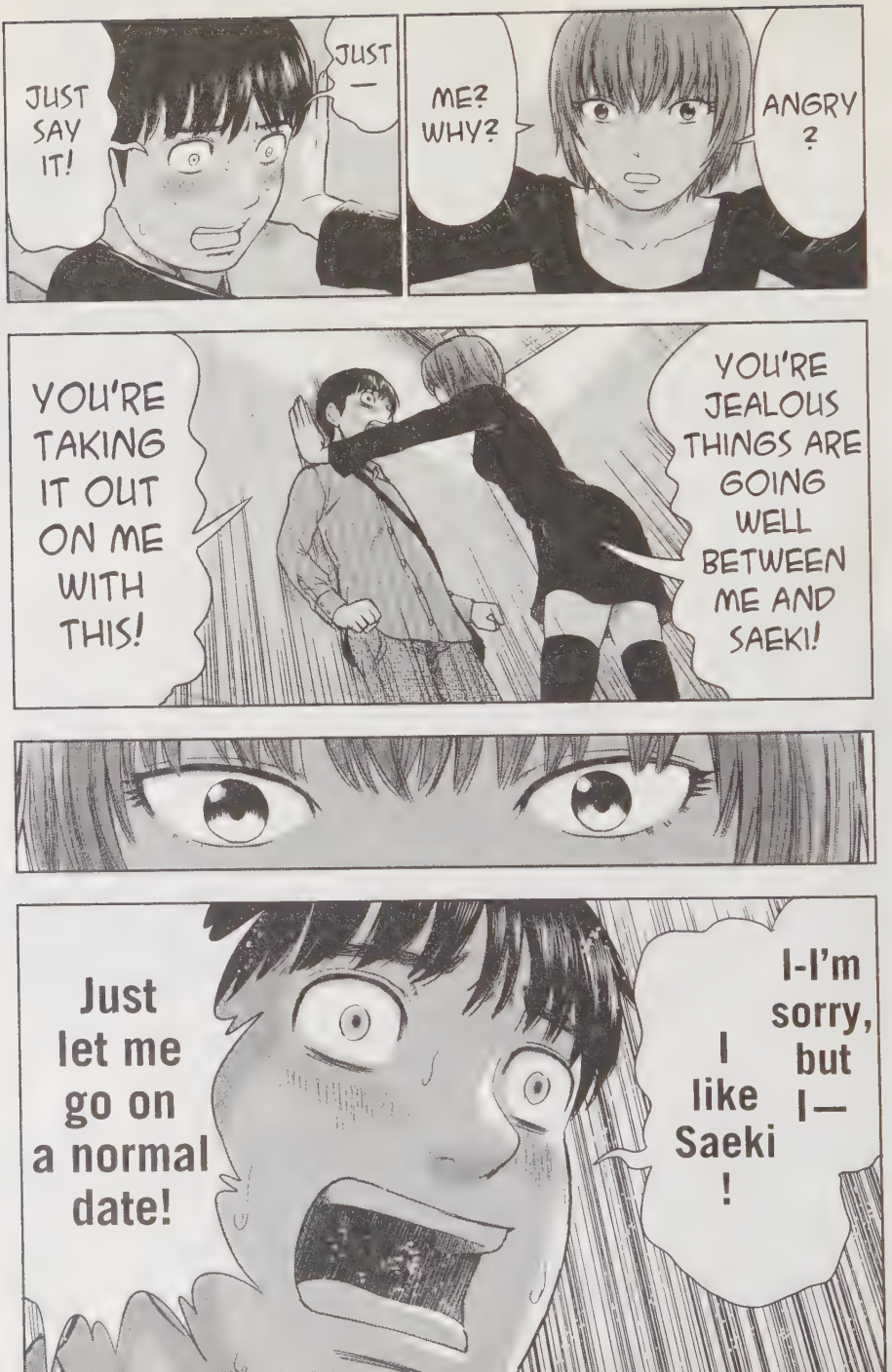
HAPPY,
AREN'T
YOU
?
YOU'RE
GONNA
GO
ON A
DATE
WITH
SAEKI
WEAR-
ING
HER
GYM
CLOTHES
THE
WHOLE
TIME.


WHA
...

SLAM
CHIK
ガチャ
...

SO, KASU-GA.
YOU DID BRING IT, YES?


...
YEAH.

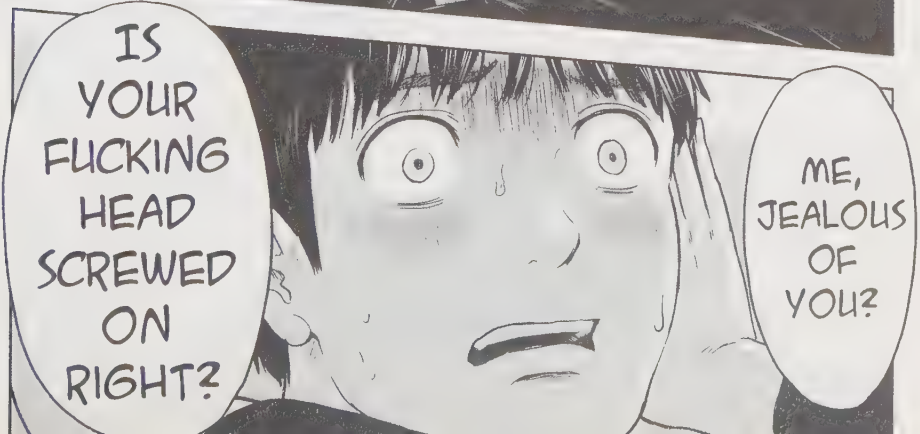

JUST SAY IT!
JUST—
ME? WHY?
ANGRY?
YOU'RE TAKING IT OUT ON ME WITH THIS!
YOU'RE JEALOUS THINGS ARE GOING WELL BETWEEN ME AND SAEKI!
Just let me go on a normal date!
I like Saeki!
I-I'm sorry, but I—

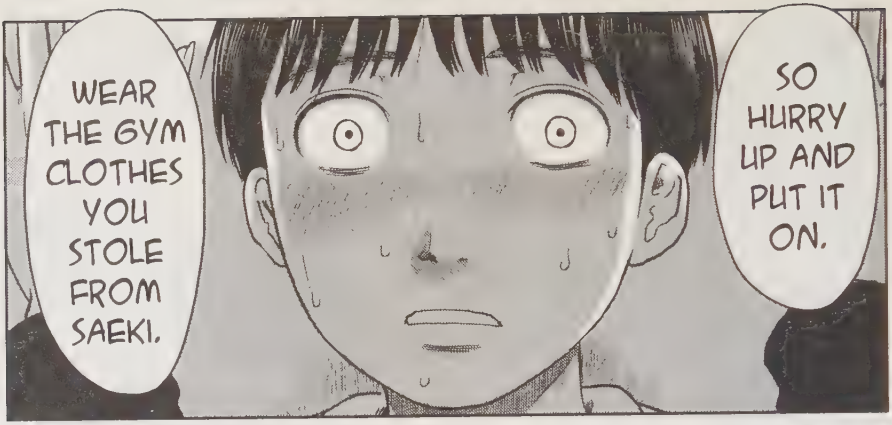
NO! NO WAY !!!
YOU SAID I WOULDN'T REGRET IT! YOU SAID TO TRUST YOU!
WHAM
you per-verted piece of shit.
Put 'em on,
YOU'RE ANGRY! I KNEW IT!
NAKA-MURA, YOU'RE ...

I JUST WANT TO SEE.
I WANT SO BADLY
TO SEE A REAL-DEAL GENUINE PERVERT
RAZE THIS TOWN WITH GENUINE PERVERSION.
AAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAA
I'VE DECIDED NOW.

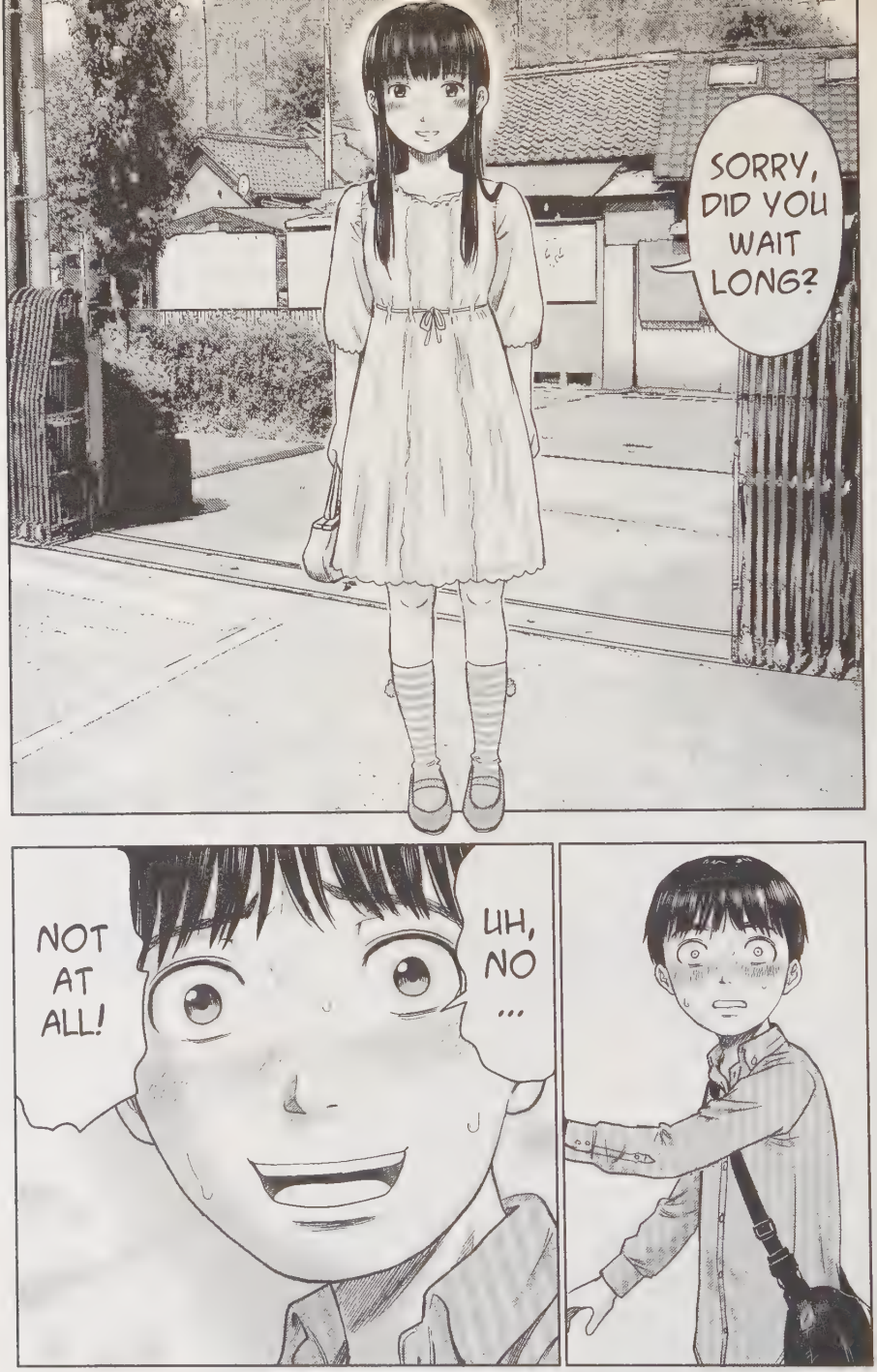
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA!
?!

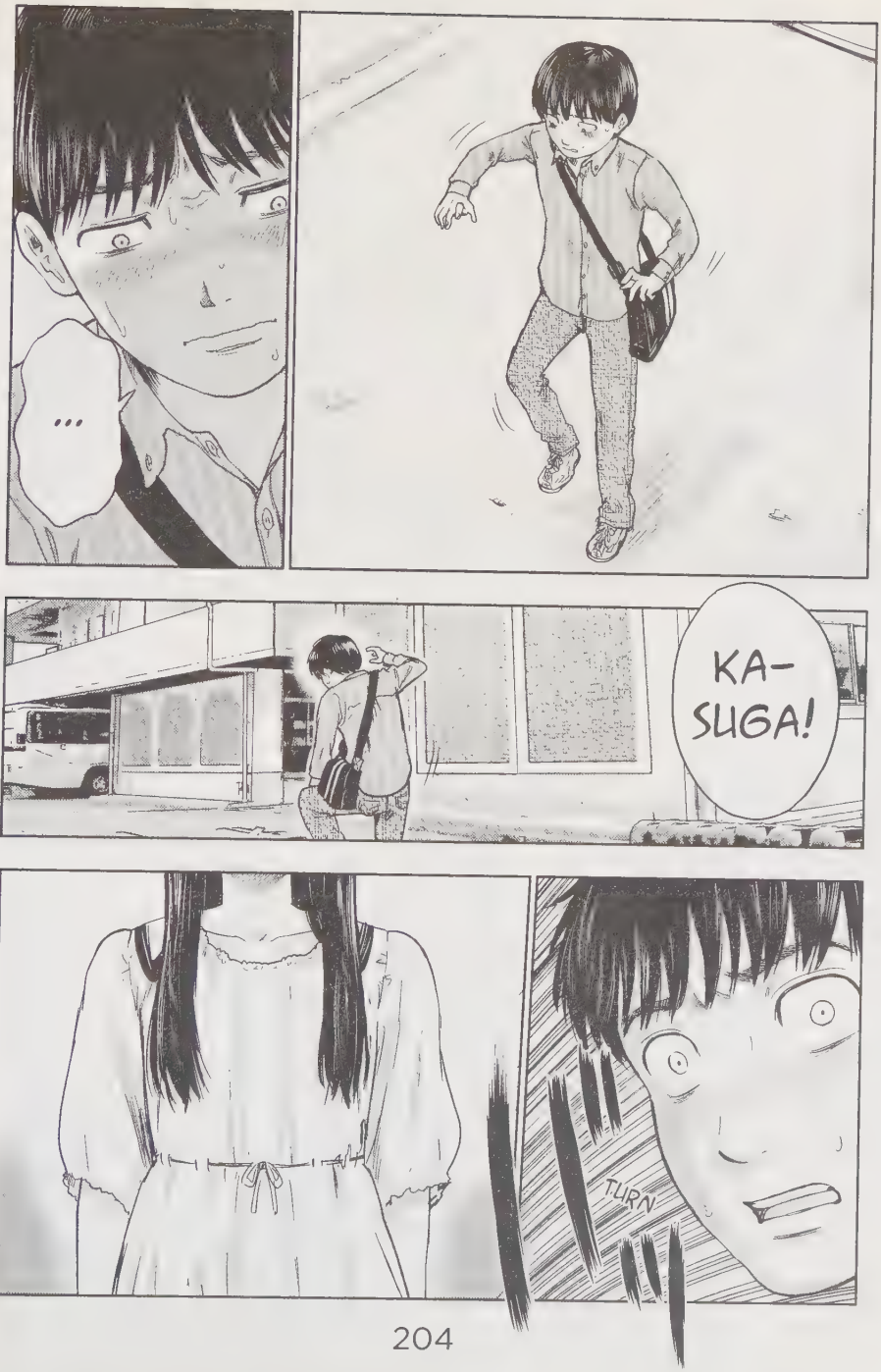
DON'T INSULT ME, YOU PIECE OF SCRAP METAL.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

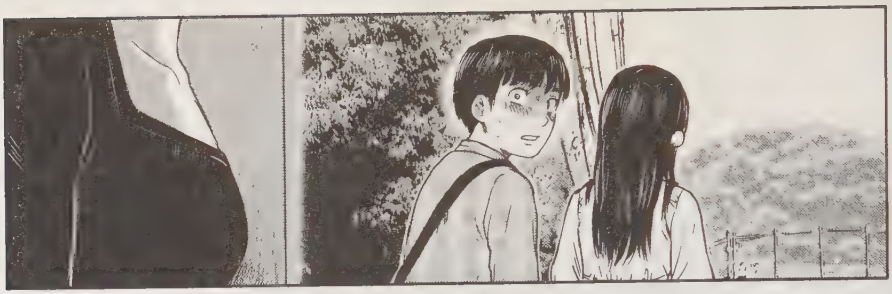

IS YOUR FUCKING HEAD SCREWED ON RIGHT?
ME, JEALOUS OF YOU?

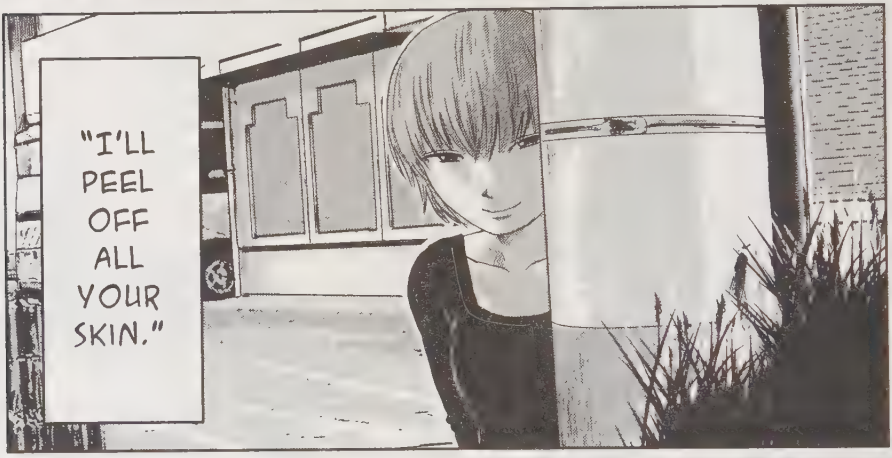

WEAR THE GYM CLOTHES YOU STOLE FROM SAEKI.
SO HURRY UP AND PUT IT ON.

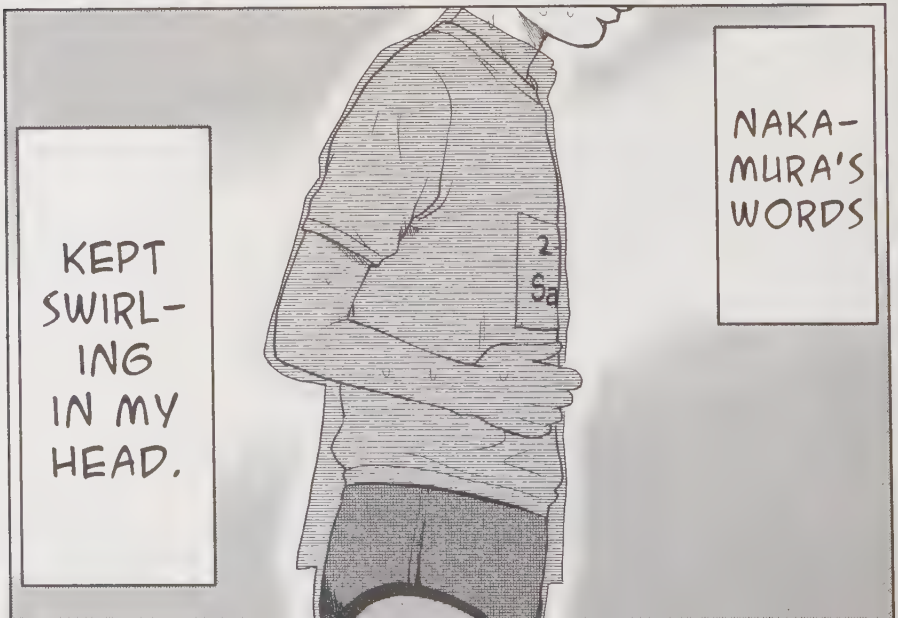
I'LL PEEL IT ALL OFF.
ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE HIDING BE-HIND.

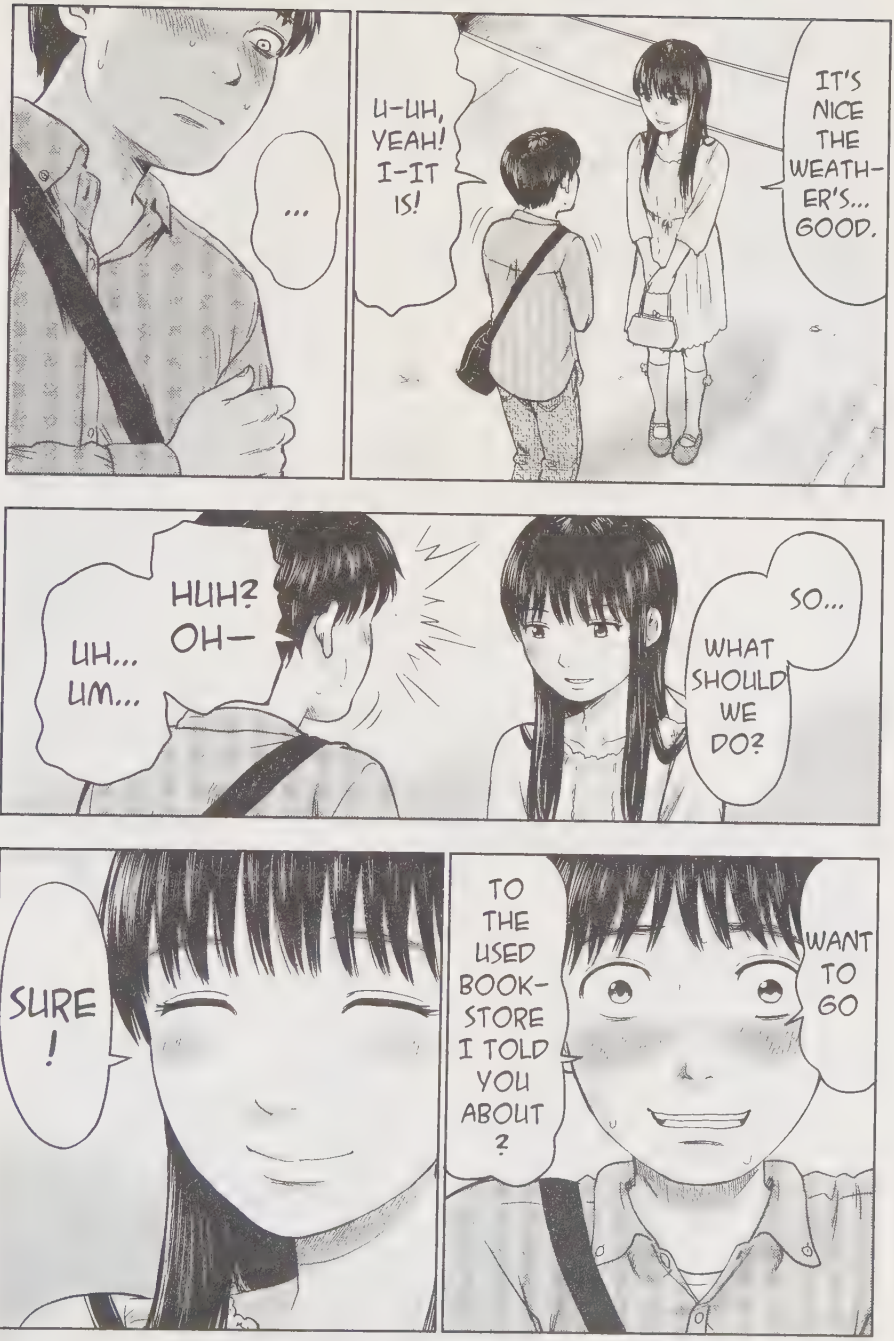

SORRY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?
UH, NO ...
NOT AT ALL!

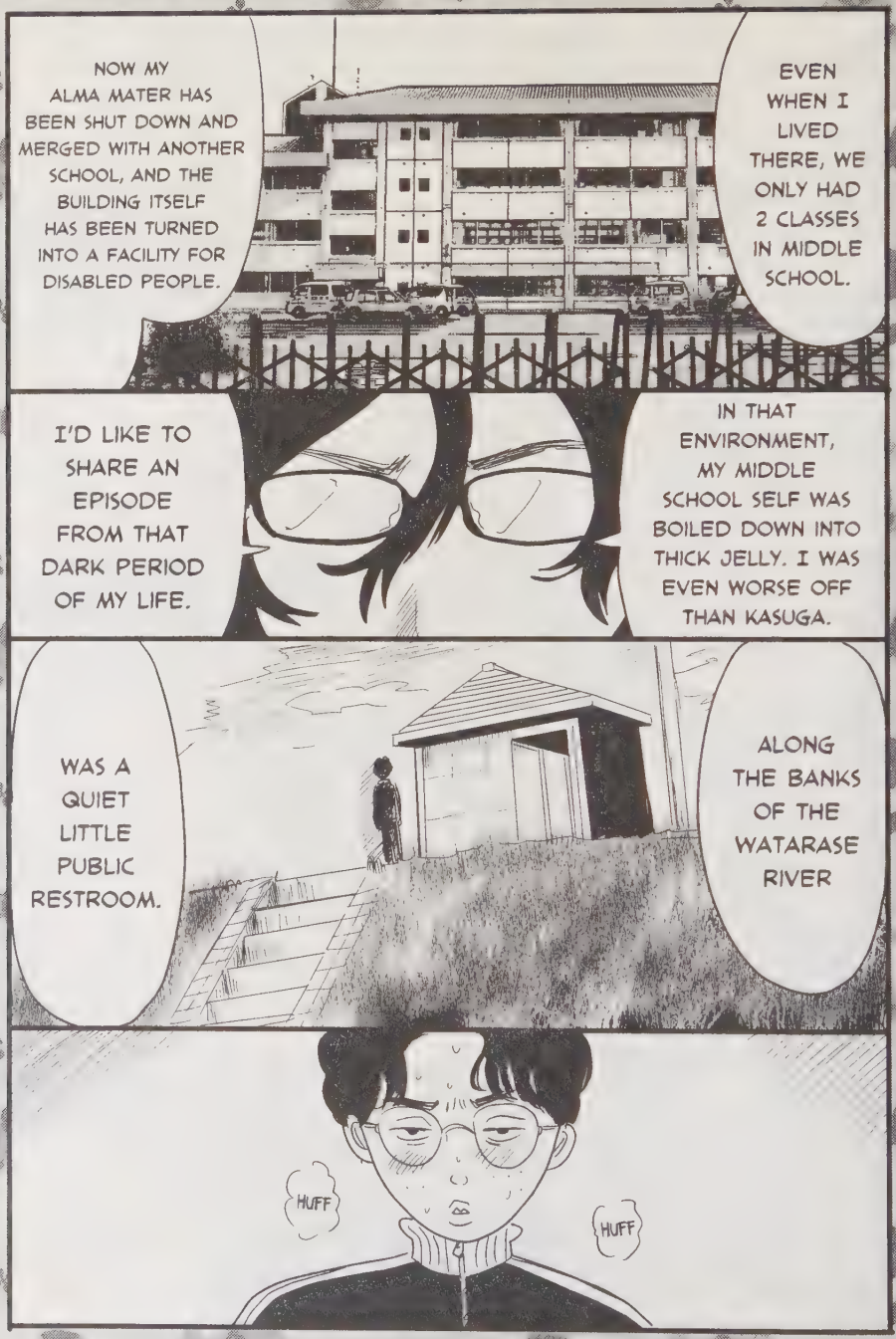

...
KA-
SUGA!
TURN



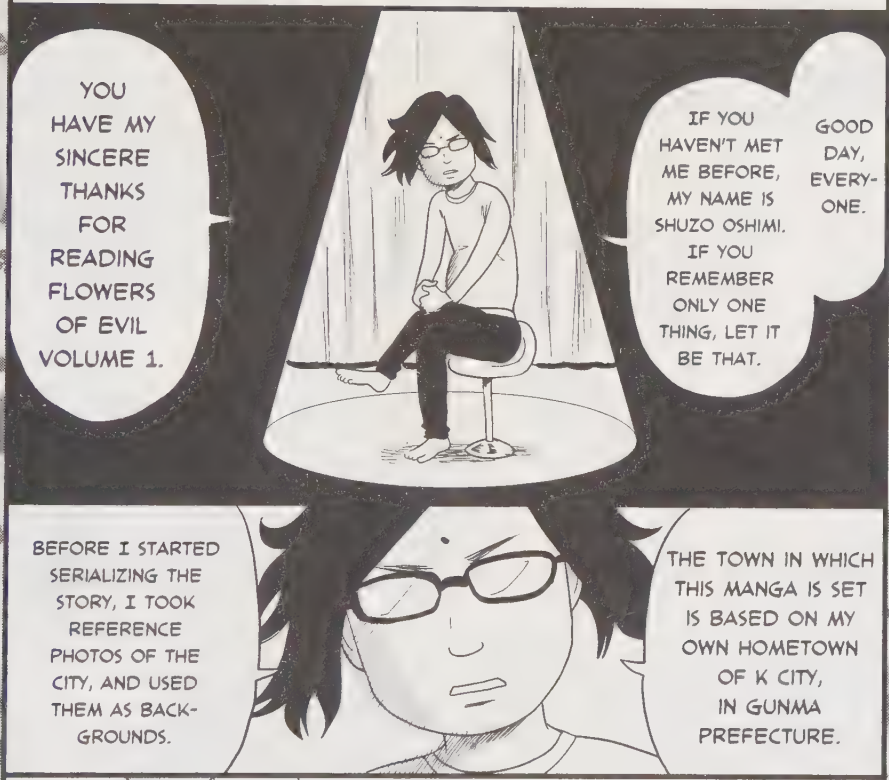

"I'LL PEEL OFF ALL YOUR SKIN."

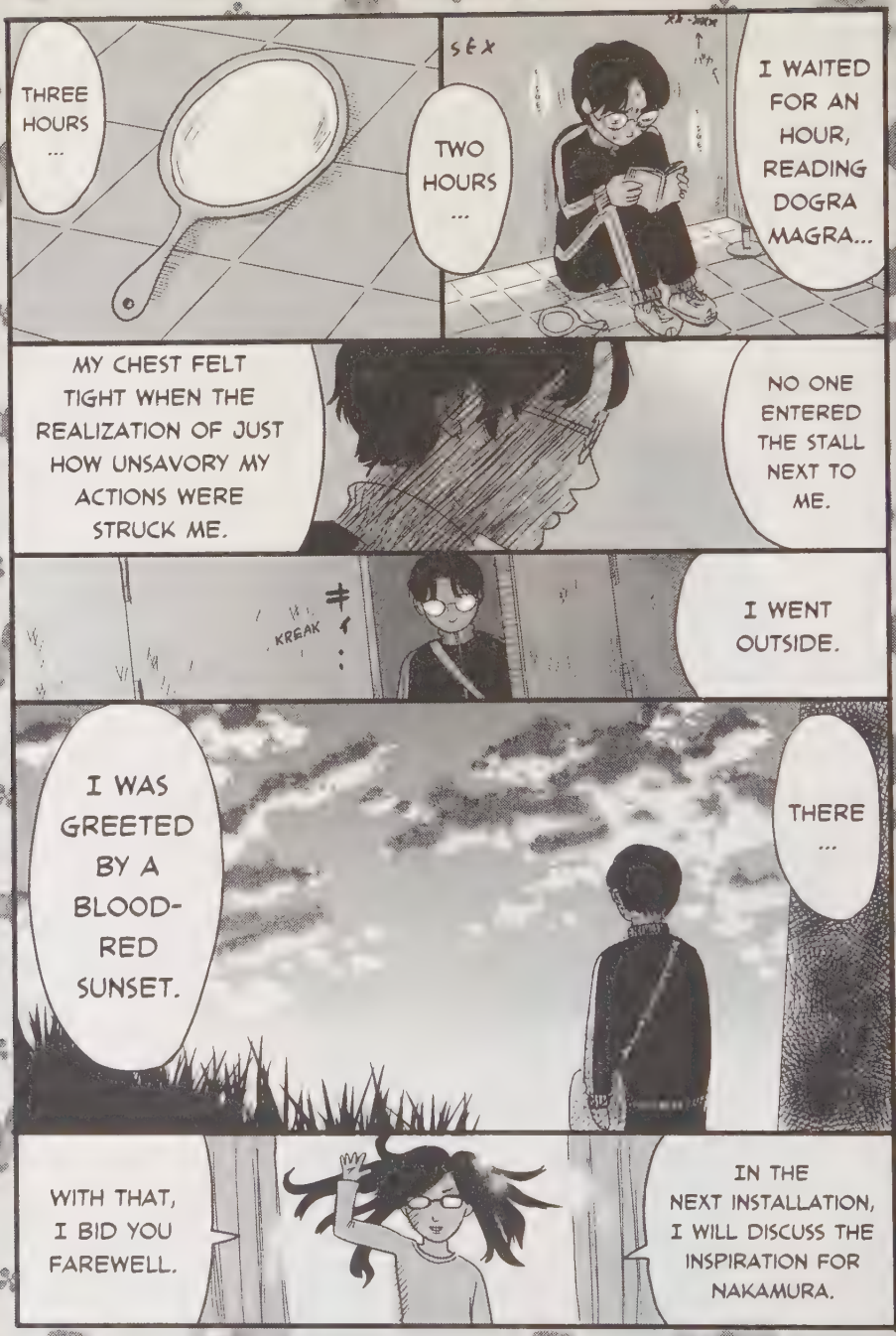

NAKA-MURA'S WORDS
KEPT SWIRL-ING IN MY HEAD.

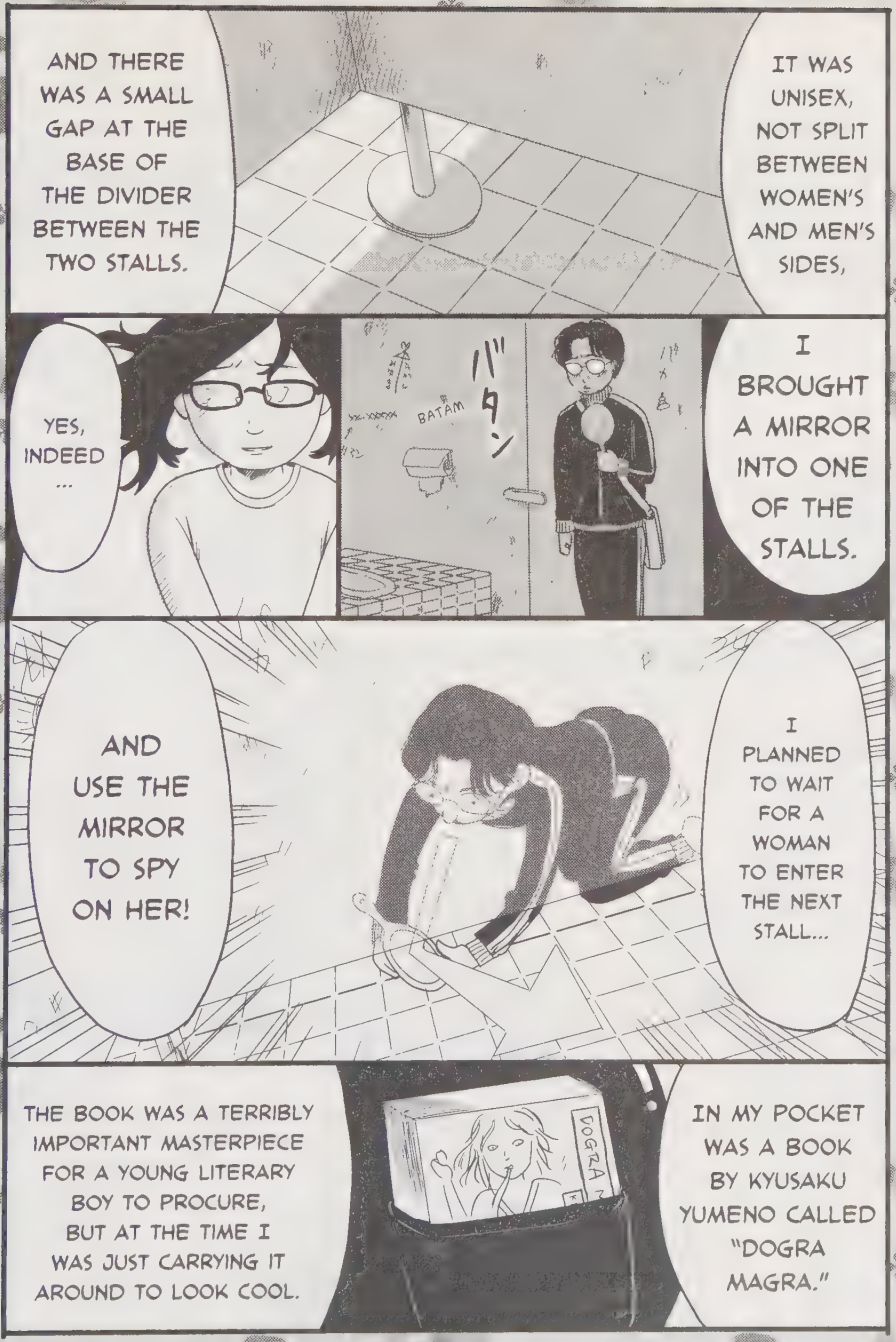

...
U-UH, YEAH! I-IT IS!
IT'S NICE THE WEATH-ER'S... GOOD.
UH... UM...
HUH? OH—
SO... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SURE!
TO THE USED BOOK-STORE I TOLD YOU ABOUT?
WANT TO GO


NOW MY ALMA MATER HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN AND MERGED WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL, AND THE BUILDING ITSELF HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A FACILITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.
EVEN WHEN I LIVED THERE, WE ONLY HAD 2 CLASSES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I'D LIKE TO SHARE AN EPISODE FROM THAT DARK PERIOD OF MY LIFE.
IN THAT ENVIRONMENT, MY MIDDLE SCHOOL SELF WAS BOILED DOWN INTO THICK JELLY. I WAS EVEN WORSE OFF THAN KASUGA.
WAS A QUIET LITTLE PUBLIC RESTROOM.
ALONG THE BANKS OF THE WATARASE RIVER
HUFF
HUFF

AFTERWORD

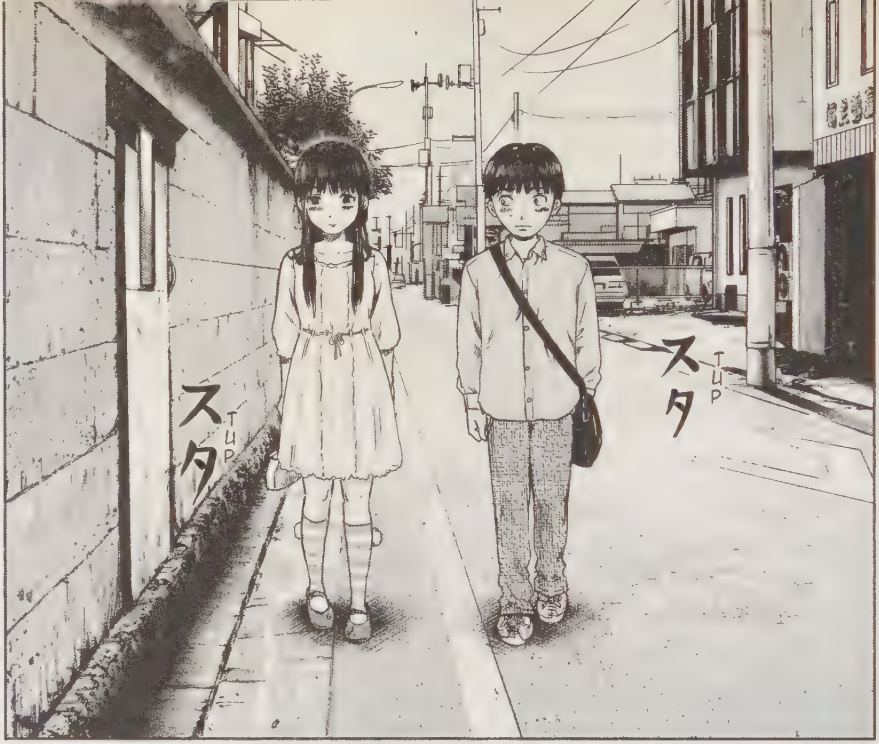

YOU HAVE MY SINCERE THANKS FOR READING FLOWERS OF EVIL VOLUME 1.
GOOD DAY, EVERY-ONE.
IF YOU HAVEN'T MET ME BEFORE, MY NAME IS SHUZO OSHIMI. IF YOU REMEMBER ONLY ONE THING, LET IT BE THAT.
BEFORE I STARTED SERIALIZING THE STORY, I TOOK REFERENCE PHOTOS OF THE CITY, AND USED THEM AS BACK-GROUNDS.
THE TOWN IN WHICH THIS MANGA IS SET IS BASED ON MY OWN HOMETOWN OF K CITY, IN GUNMA PREFECTURE.
AND IF YOU LIVE THERE, IT WEIGHS ON YOUR HEART.
STORE-FRONTS ARE SHUT-TERED ...
ALL THE IRON IN THE CITY IS RUSTED ...
JUST AS IN THE MANGA, K CITY IS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS. IT WAS ONCE PROSPEROUS, BUT HAS DECLINED.

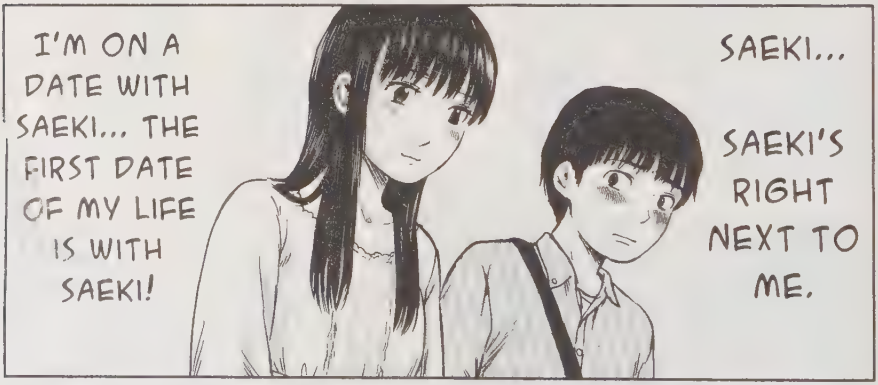

THREE HOURS ...
TWO HOURS ...
I WAITED FOR AN HOUR, READING DOGRA MAGRA...
MY CHEST FELT TIGHT WHEN THE REALIZATION OF JUST HOW UNSAVORY MY ACTIONS WERE STRUCK ME.
NO ONE ENTERED THE STALL NEXT TO ME.
KREAK
I WENT OUTSIDE.
I WAS GREETED BY A BLOOD-RED SUNSET.
THERE ...
WITH THAT, I BID YOU FAREWELL.
IN THE NEXT INSTALLATION, I WILL DISCUSS THE INSPIRATION FOR NAKAMURA.

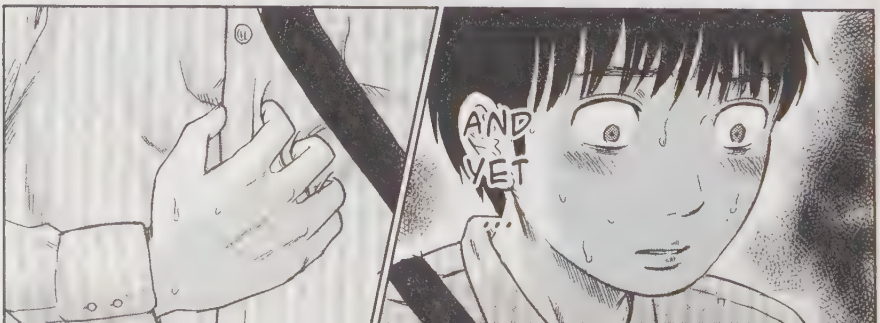

AND THERE WAS A SMALL GAP AT THE BASE OF THE DIVIDER BETWEEN THE TWO STALLS.
IT WAS UNISEX, NOT SPLIT BETWEEN WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SIDES,
YES, INDEED ...
BATAM
バタン
I BROUGHT A MIRROR INTO ONE OF THE STALLS.
AND USE THE MIRROR TO SPY ON HER!
I PLANNED TO WAIT FOR A WOMAN TO ENTER THE NEXT STALL...
THE BOOK WAS A TERRIBLY IMPORTANT MASTERPIECE FOR A YOUNG LITERARY BOY TO PROCURE, BUT AT THE TIME I WAS JUST CARRYING IT AROUND TO LOOK COOL.
DOGRA
IN MY POCKET WAS A BOOK BY KYUSAKU YUMENO CALLED "DOGRA MAGRA."

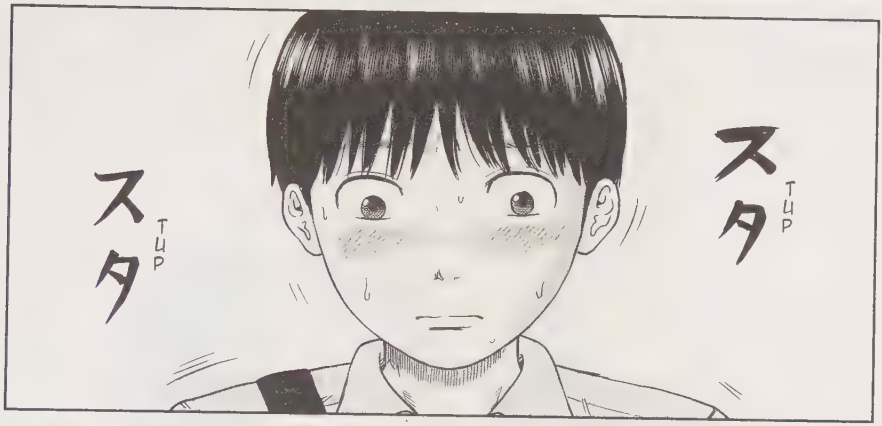
Chapter 7: Madness

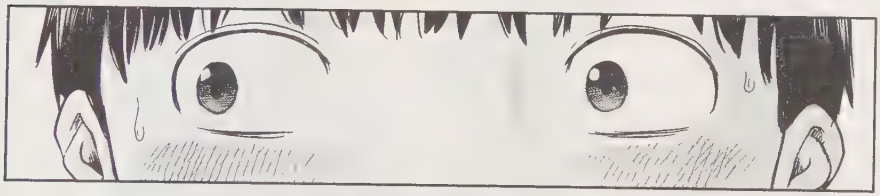
The Flowers of Evil

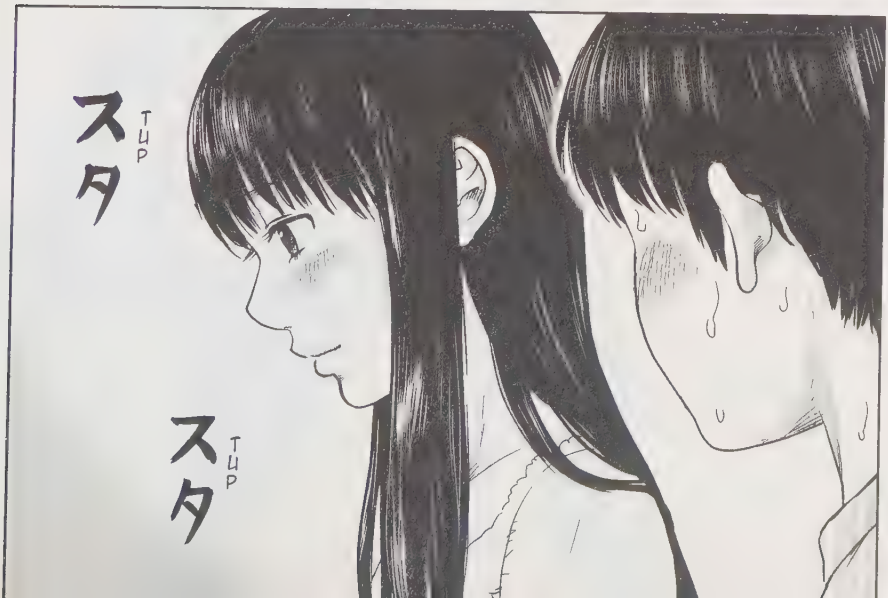

スタ
TUP
スタ
TUP

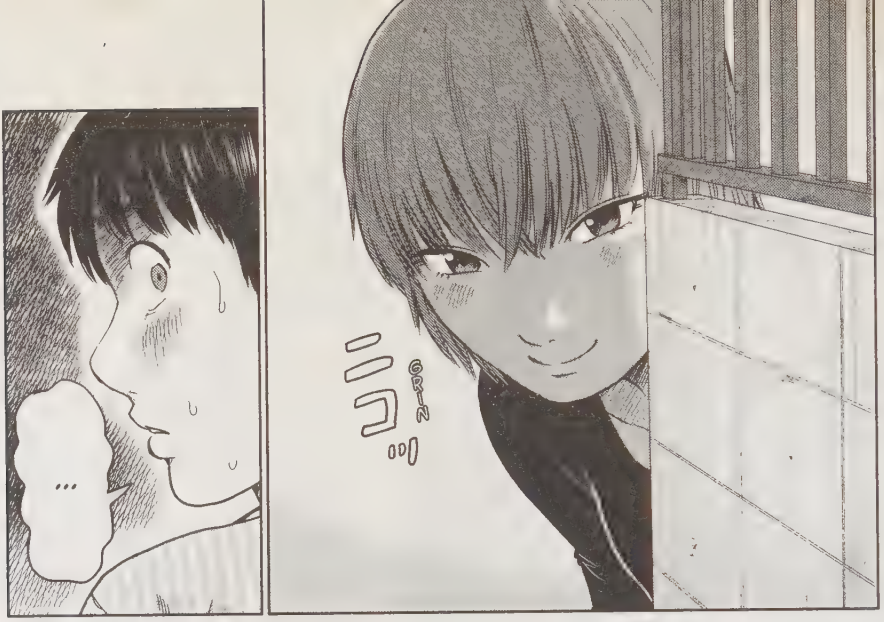

I'M ON A DATE WITH SAEKI... THE FIRST DATE OF MY LIFE IS WITH SAEKI!
SAEKI...
SAEKI'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME.

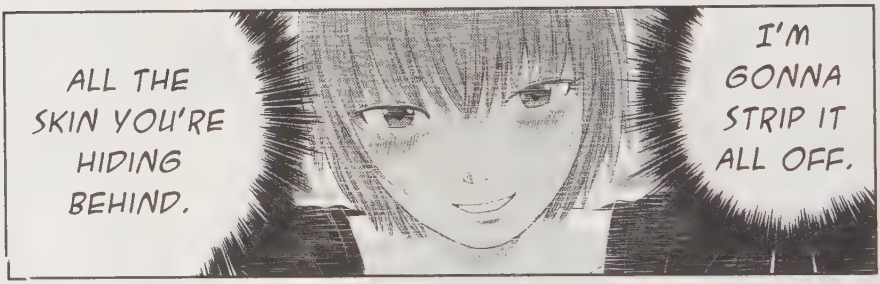

AND YET...

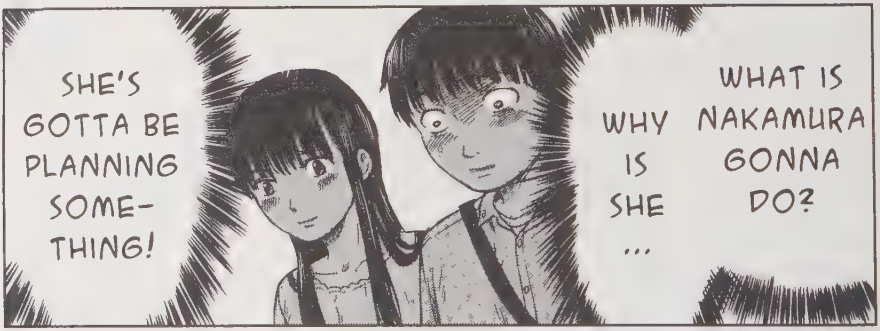

スタ TUP
スタ TUP



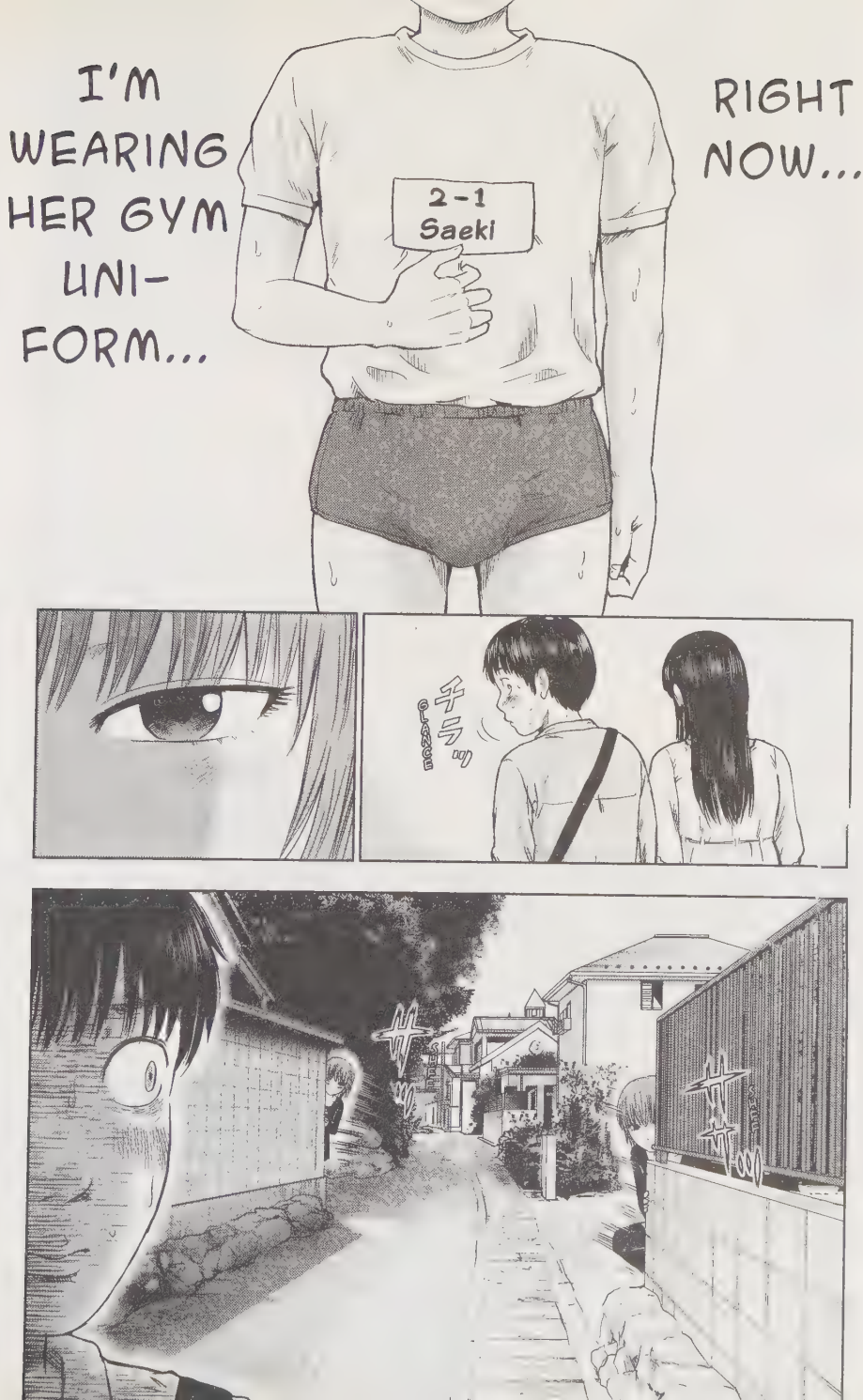

スタ TUP
スタ TUP

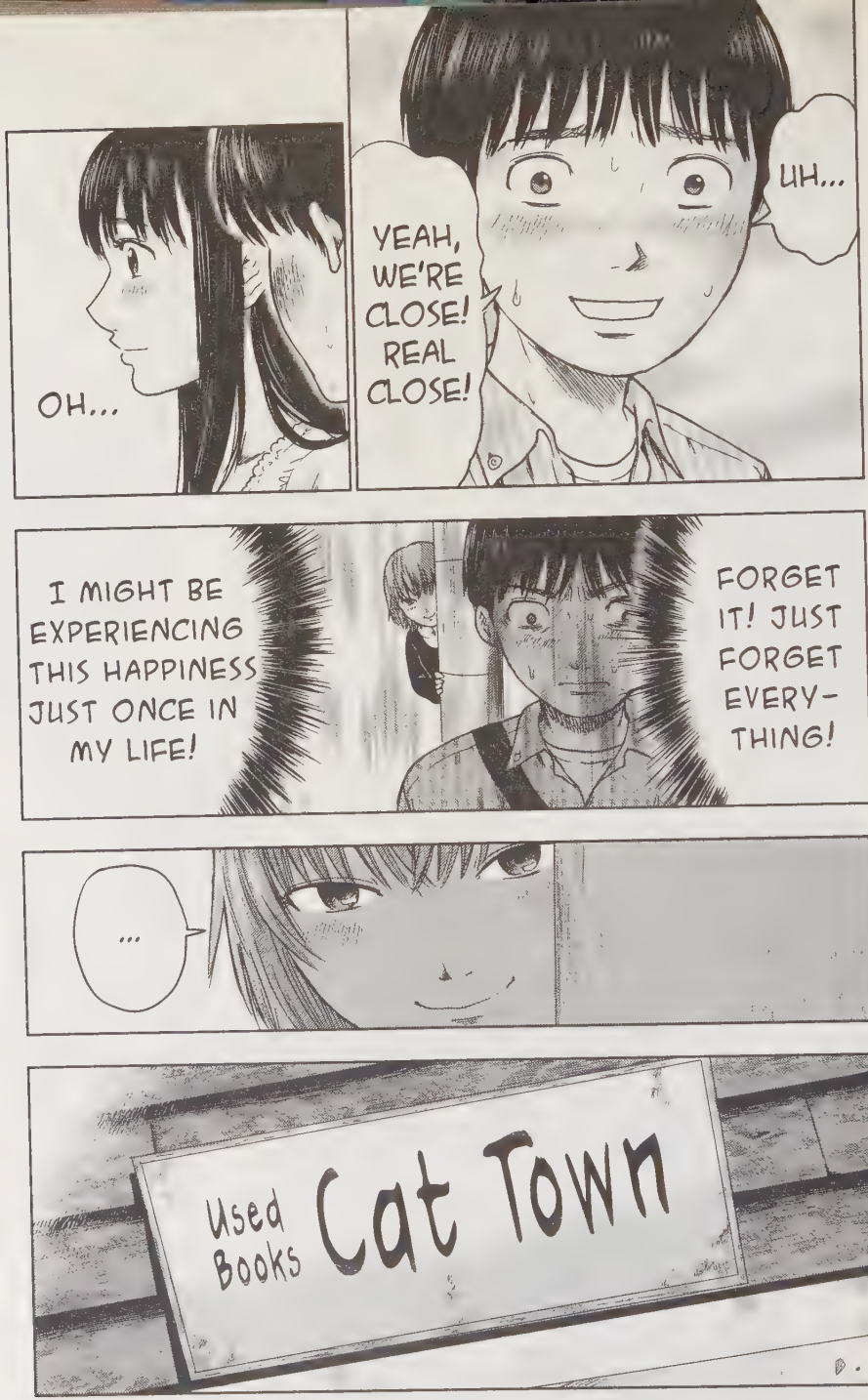

...
GRIN
ニコ
OO!

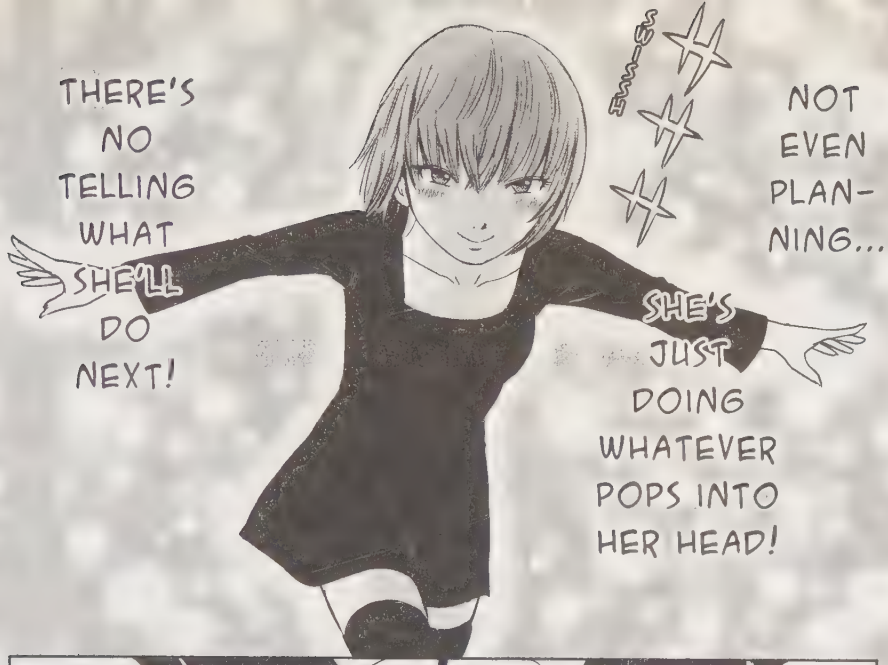

ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND.
I'M GONNA STRIP IT ALL OFF.

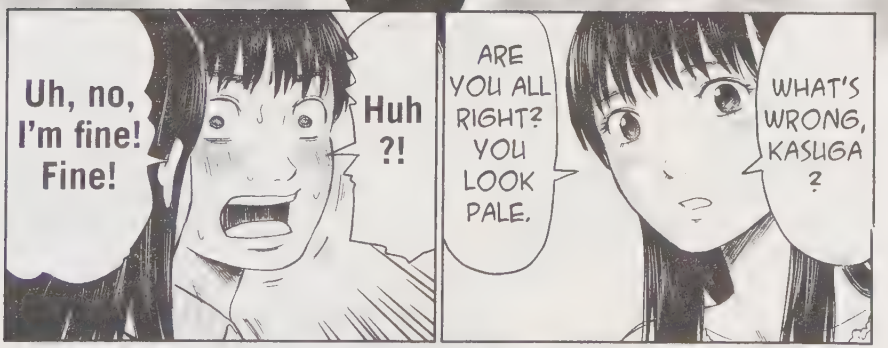

SHE'S GOTTA BE PLANNING SOME-THING!
WHY IS SHE ...
WHAT IS NAKAMURA GONNA DO?

NO...

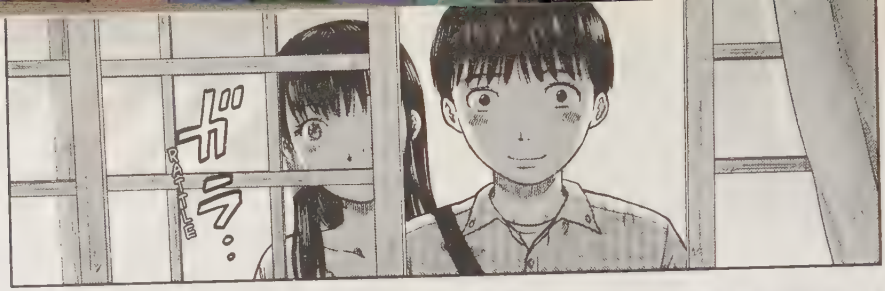

I'M WEARING HER GYM UNI-FORM...
2-1 Saeki
RIGHT NOW...
チラッ
CLANCE


OH...
YEAH, WE'RE CLOSE! REAL CLOSE!
UH...
I MIGHT BE EXPERIENCING THIS HAPPINESS JUST ONCE IN MY LIFE!
FORGET IT! JUST FORGET EVERY-THING!
...
Used Books Cat Town

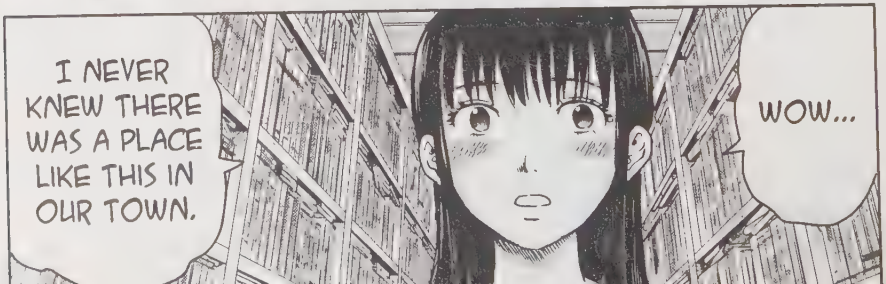

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SHE'LL DO NEXT!
NOT EVEN PLANNING...
SHE'S JUST DOING WHATEVER POPS INTO HER HEAD!

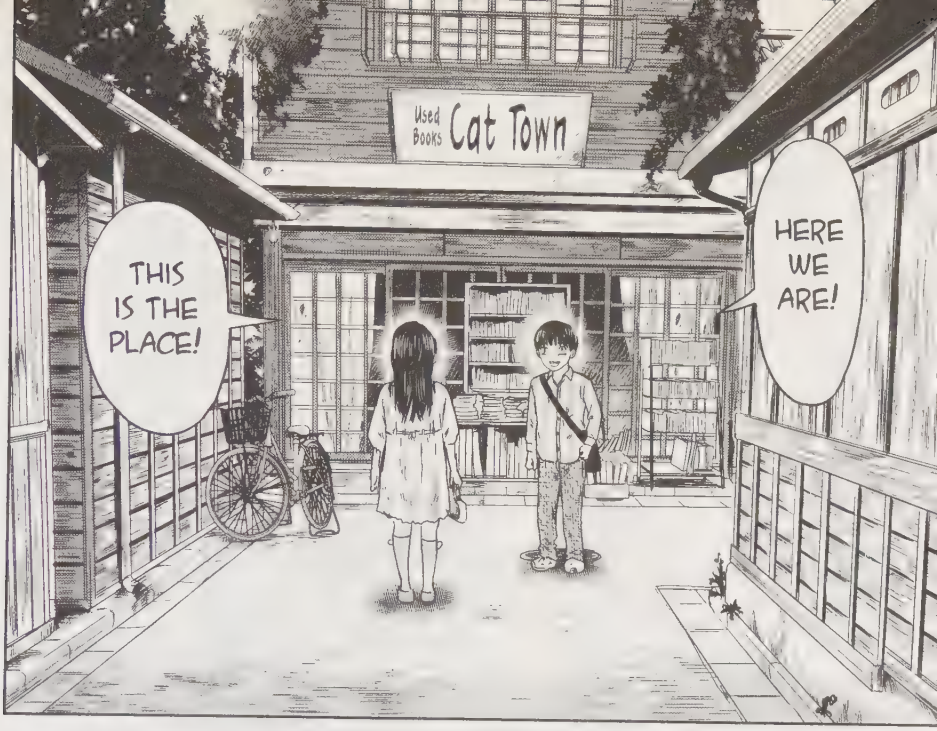

Uh, no, I'm fine! Fine!
Huh ?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK PALE.
WHAT'S WRONG, KASUGA ?

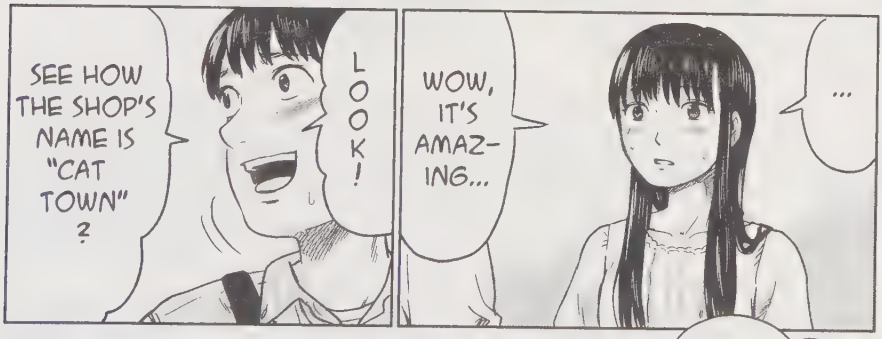
ARE WE CLOSE ?
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PLACE YOUR FAVORITE BOOK-STORE IS!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.


ガラ。

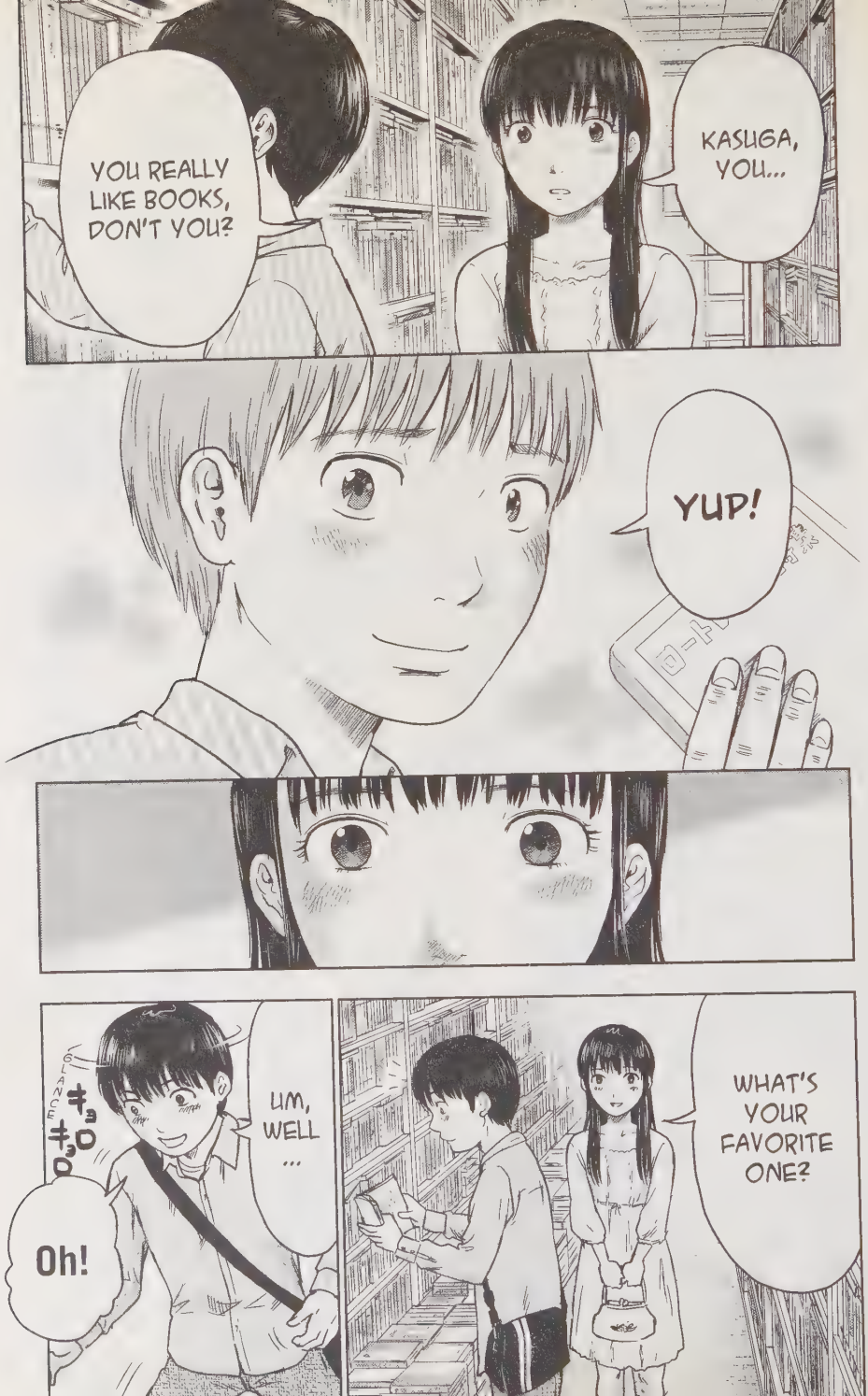
WEL-
COME.

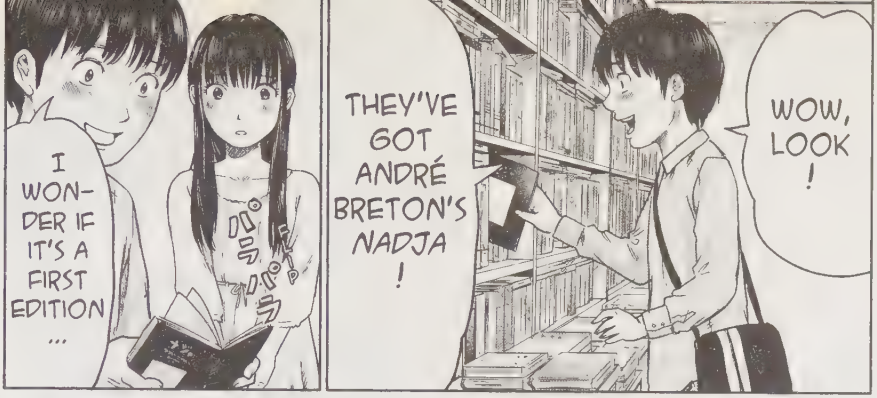

I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS IN OUR TOWN.
WOW...

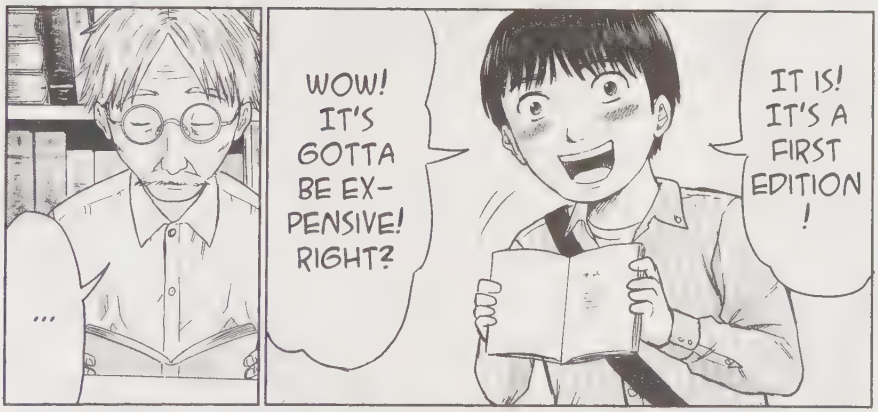

Used Books Cat Town
THIS IS THE PLACE!
HERE WE ARE!

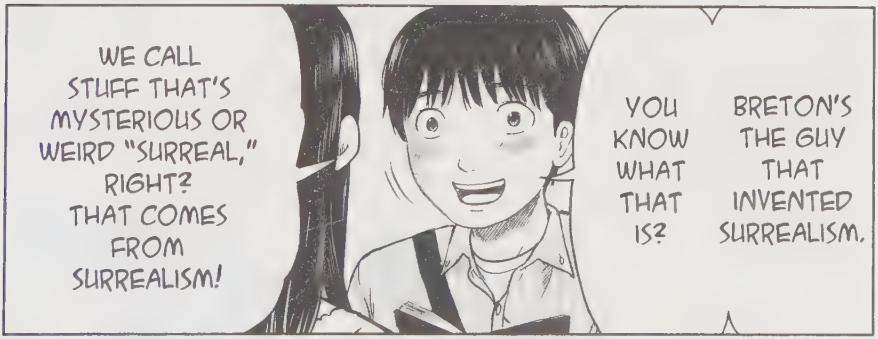

SEE HOW THE SHOP'S NAME IS "CAT TOWN"?
LOOK!
WOW, IT'S AMAZ-ING...
...

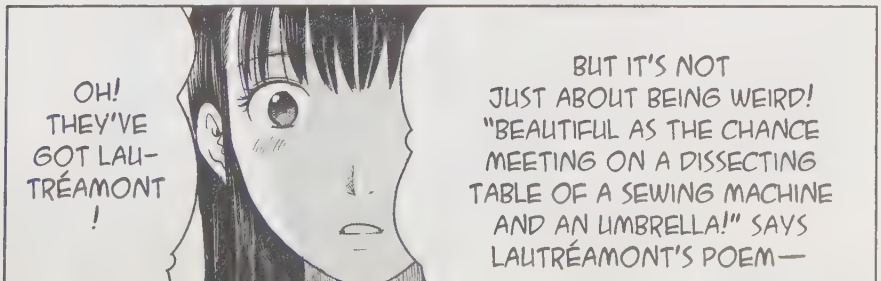
I SEE...
?
Used Books
It must be a reference to the prose piece called "Cat Town" by the poet Sakutaro Hagiwara!


KASUGA, YOU...
YOU REALLY LIKE BOOKS, DON'T YOU?
YUP!
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ONE?
UM, WELL ...
キョロキョロ
Oh!


I WONDER IF IT'S A FIRST EDITION ...
パラパラ
THEY'VE GOT ANDRÉ BRETON'S NADJA !
WOW, LOOK !


...
WOW! IT'S GOTTA BE EXPENSIVE! RIGHT?
IT IS! IT'S A FIRST EDITION !

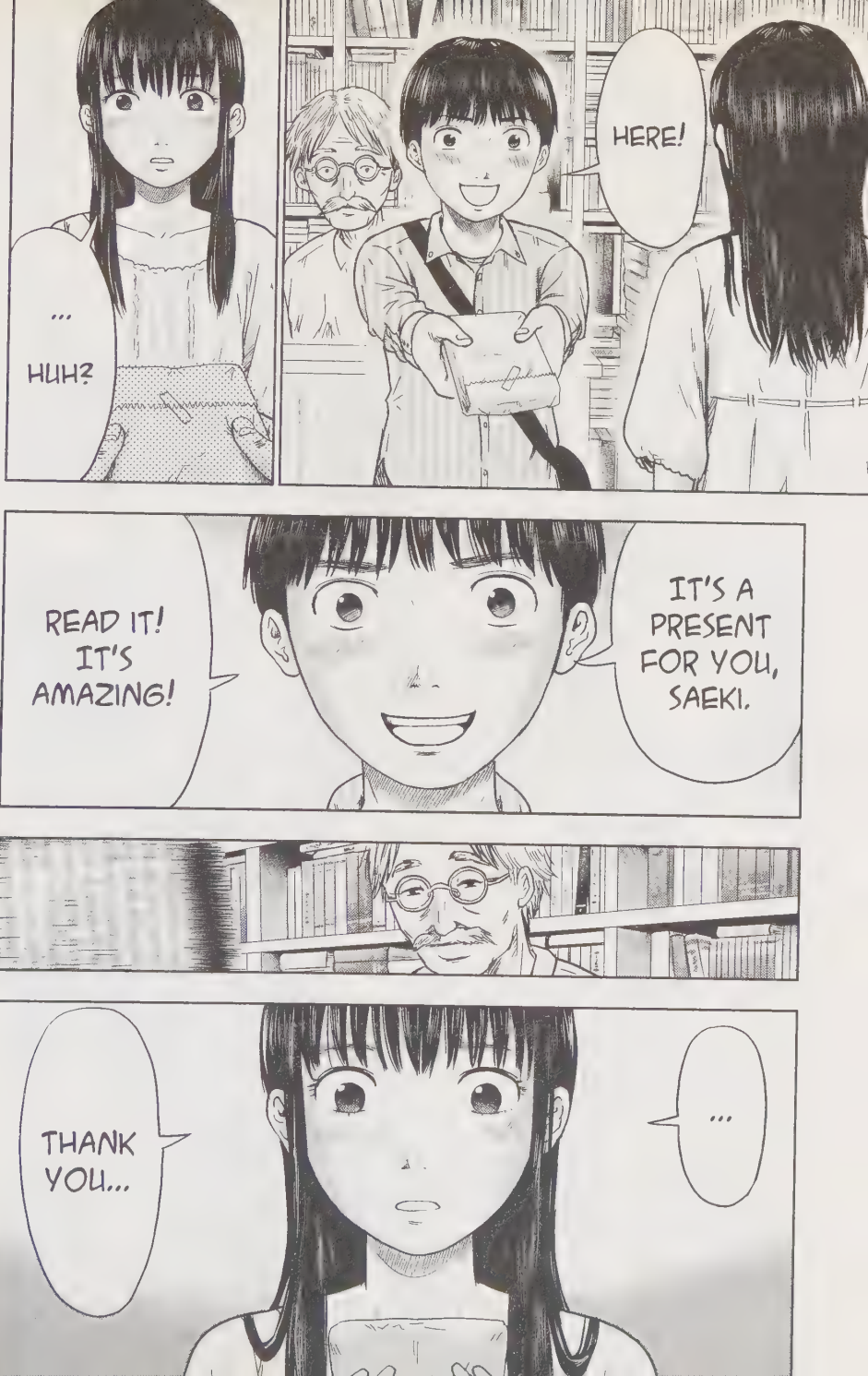

WE CALL STUFF THAT'S MYSTERIOUS OR WEIRD "SURREAL," RIGHT? THAT COMES FROM SURREALISM!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
BRETON'S THE GUY THAT INVENTED SURREALISM.

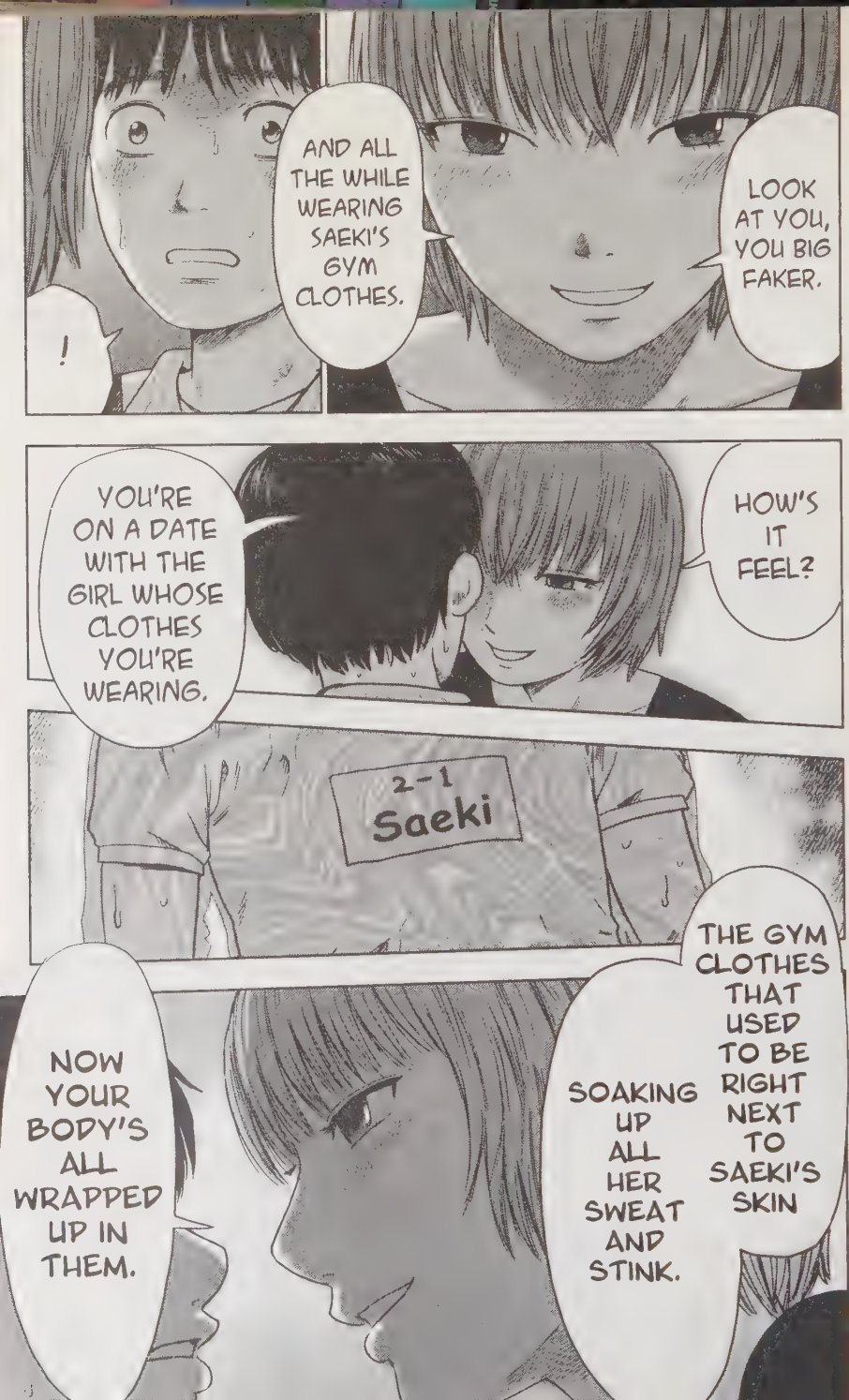

OH! THEY'VE GOT LAUTRÉAMONT !
BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT BEING WEIRD! "BEAUTIFUL AS THE CHANCE MEETING ON A DISSECTING TABLE OF A SEWING MACHINE AND AN UMBRELLA!" SAYS LAUTRÉAMONT'S POEM—

...
SFF
O-
OKAY!
RISE
たっ
たっ
たっ
TUP
TUP
?
I'LL TAKE THIS, PLEASE!
RIGHT, THAT'LL BE... 600 YEN.

Baudelaire's
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
The Flowers of Evil.
HERE!
THAT'S SOME TITLE.
SEEMS KINDA SCARY.
IT'S A TERRIFYING BOOK, REALLY.
I READ IT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVENTH GRADE.
IT CHANGED HOW I SEE THE WORLD.
I FELT AS THOUGH I'D BEEN AN IGNORANT FOOL MY WHOLE LIFE.
ANYWAY, THE WORDS WERE AMAZING, THEY WERE SO COOL...
!

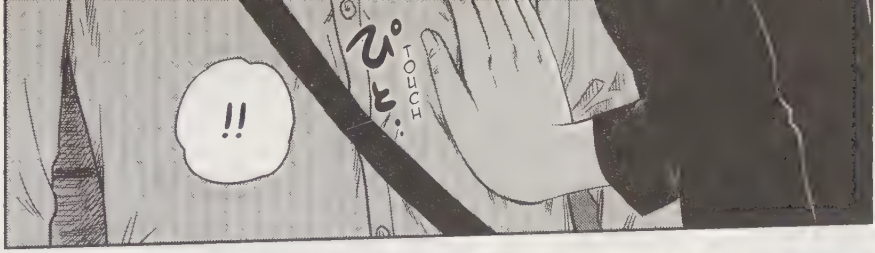
?!
...
BECKON
くい
くい
SA
...
...
SAEKI, I'M SORRY! JUST WAIT HERE!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
HUH?
DASH

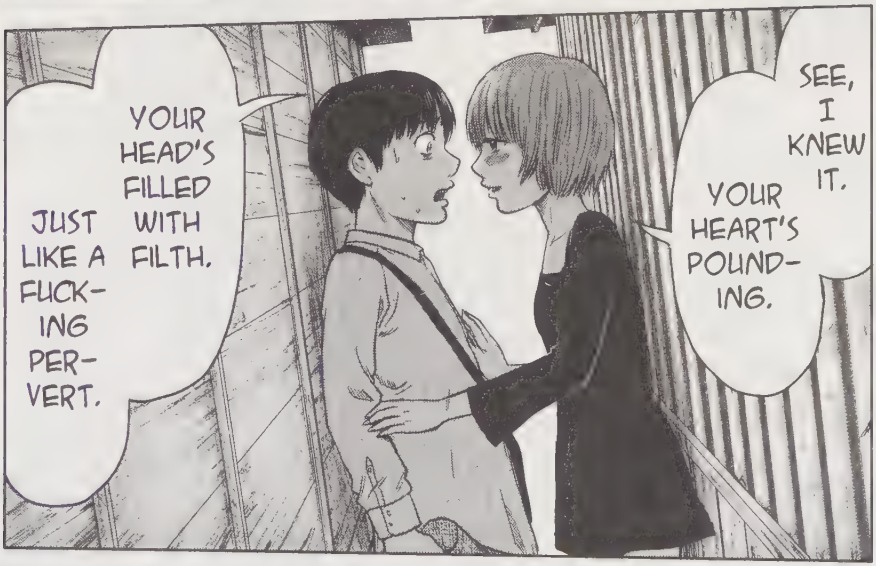

...
HUH?
HERE!
IT'S A PRESENT FOR YOU, SAEKI.
READ IT! IT'S AMAZING!
...
THANK YOU...

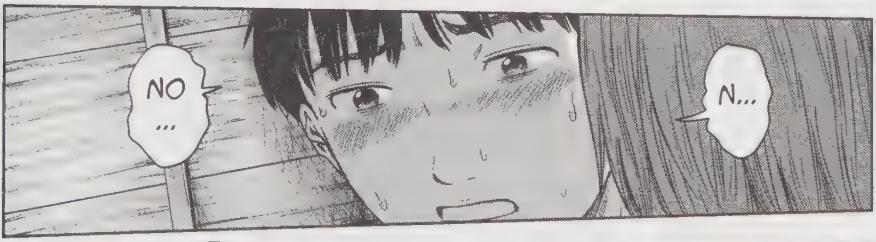

LOOK AT YOU, YOU BIG FAKER.
AND ALL THE WHILE WEARING SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES.
!
HOW'S IT FEEL?
YOU'RE ON A DATE WITH THE GIRL WHOSE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING.
2-1
Saeki
THE GYM CLOTHES THAT USED TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO SAEKI'S SKIN
SOAKING UP ALL HER SWEAT AND STINK.
NOW YOUR BODY'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN THEM.

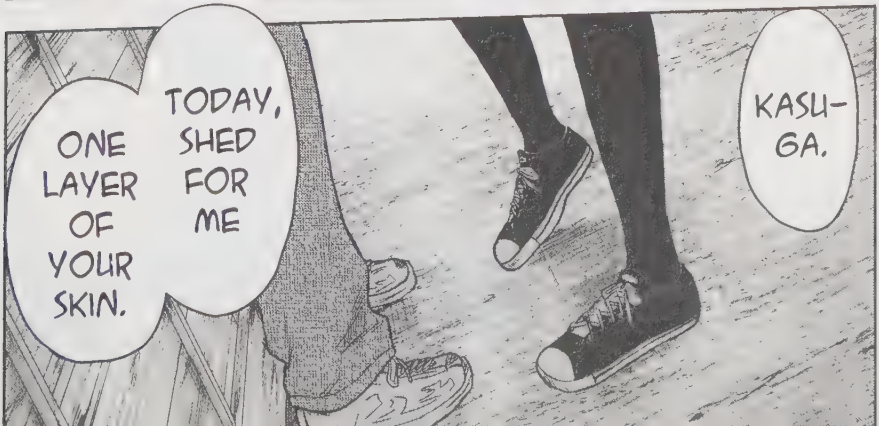
!
RATTLE
OVER HERE.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN
KASUGA.
WHAM

By the end of this date,
kiss Saeki.
DO IT.
YOU WANT TO, RIGHT? YOU WANNA KISS SAEKI.
SHAKE
SHAKE


!!
ぴと…
TOUCH


SEE, I KNEW IT.
YOUR HEART'S POUND-ING.
YOUR HEAD'S FILLED WITH FILTH.
JUST LIKE A FUCK-ING PER-VERT.


N...
NO ...


KASU-GA.
TODAY, SHED FOR ME
ONE LAYER OF YOUR SKIN.

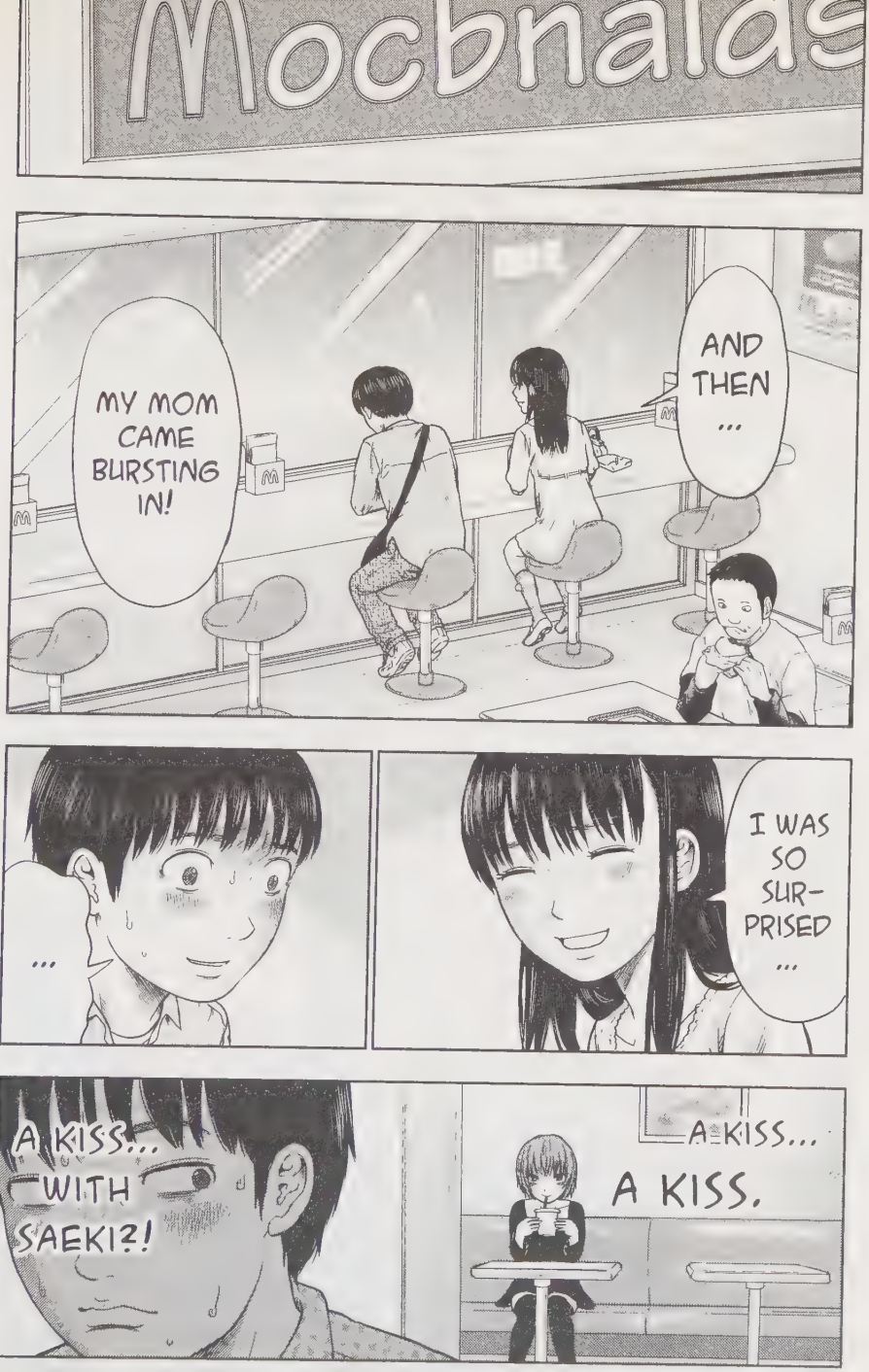
WHE
WHERE'D YOU GO?
I'm right here!
Ah... r-right here!
JUST HAD TO GET SOME AIR... HA HA HA...
OH... YEAH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
UH... YEAH, SURE!
WANT TO GET SOME FOOD SOME-WHERE?
UH... ARE YOU HUN-GRY?

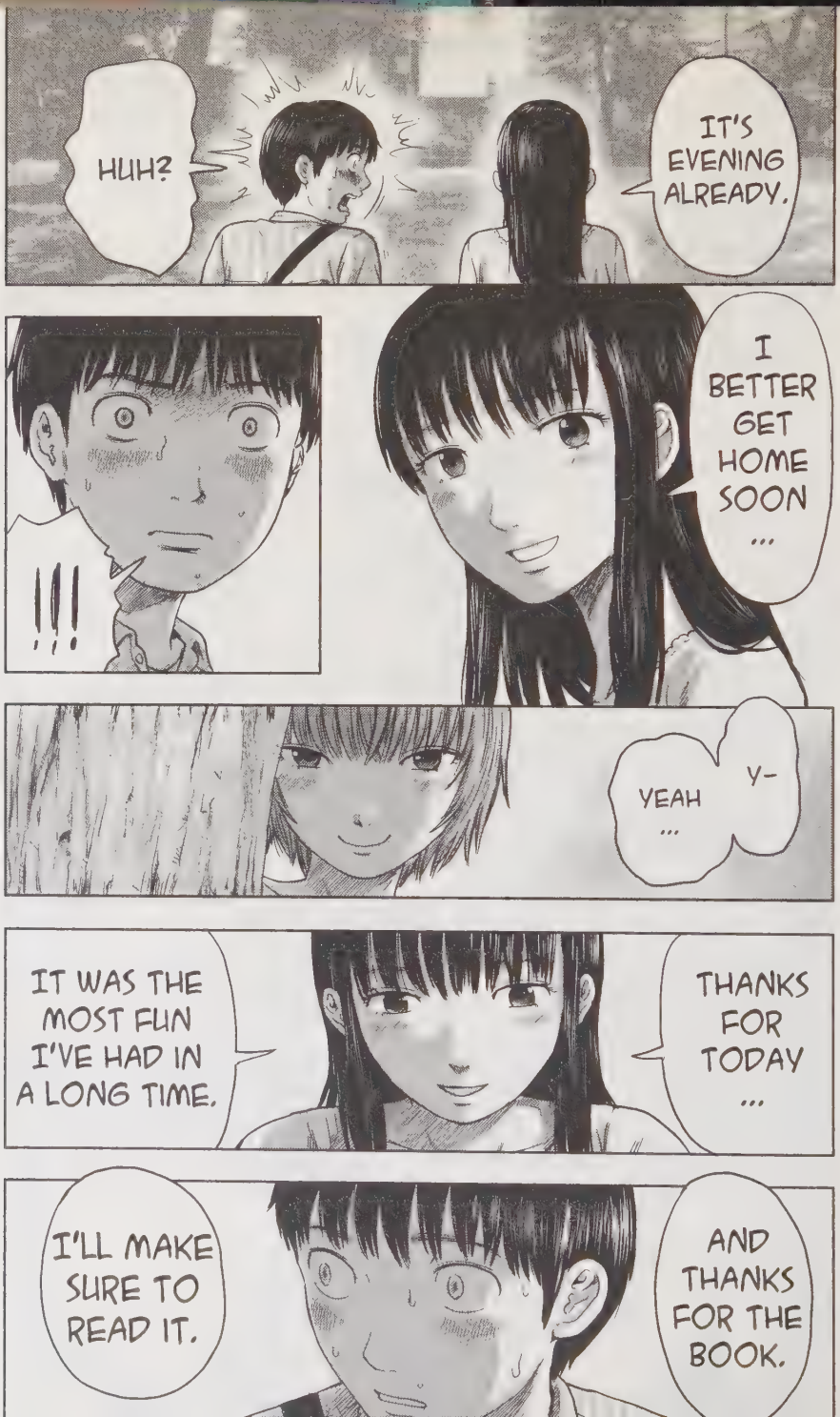
A KISS. A KISS WITH SAEKI ...
A KISS WITH SAEKI WHILE WEARING HER GYM CLOTHES.
HOW 'BOUT IT? MAKES YOU FEEL HOT ALL OVER, RIGHT?

KASUGA —
!!!

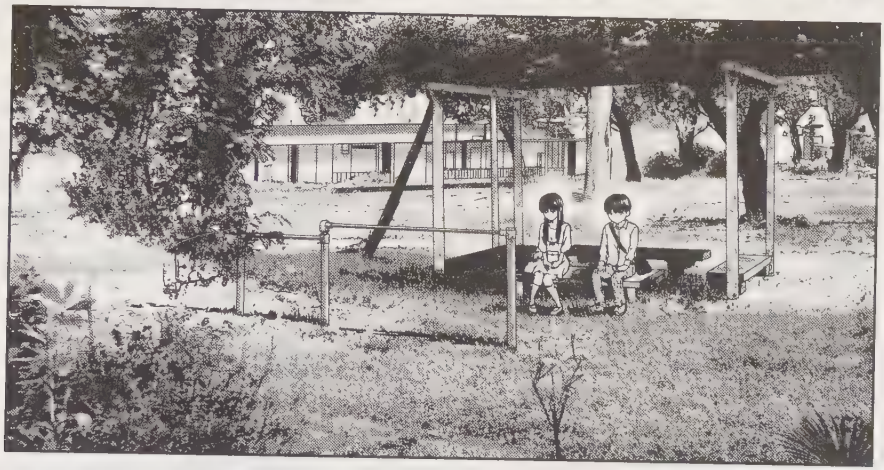
ADMIT IT.
ADMIT YOU'RE A FUCKING PERVERT.
EXPOSE EVERYTHING INSIDE OF YOU, OR ELSE...
IT'S STRAIGHT TO HELL WITH YOU.

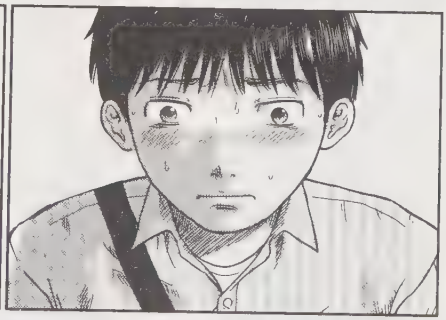
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING, KASUGA?
TWITCH
I MEAN, SHE'S... AN ANGEL!
I... I CAN'T DO IT!
SORR—
AH
GAH!
UH!
WHAT'S... WRONG?
UFF
...

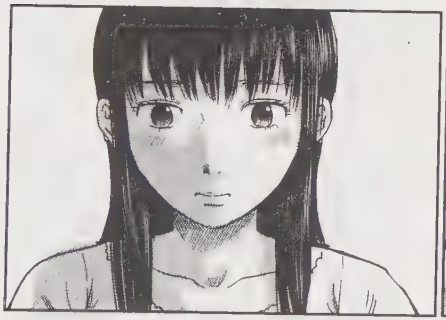

MY MOM CAME BURSTING IN!
AND THEN ...
...
I WAS SO SUR-PRISED ...
A KISS... WITH SAEKI?!
A KISS...
A KISS.

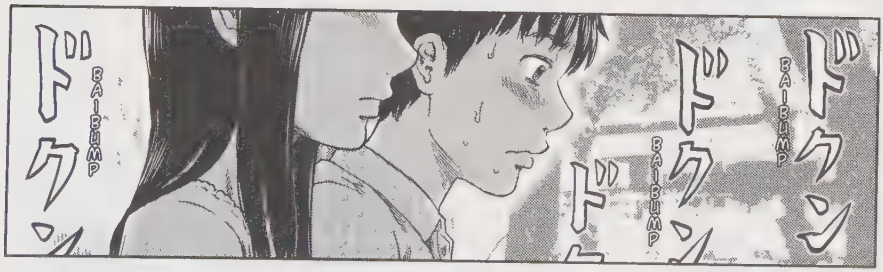

HUH?
IT'S EVENING ALREADY.
!!!
I BETTER GET HOME SOON ...
Y-
YEAH ...
IT WAS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.
THANKS FOR TODAY ...
I'LL MAKE SURE TO READ IT.
AND THANKS FOR THE BOOK.

カァーCAW
カァーCAW

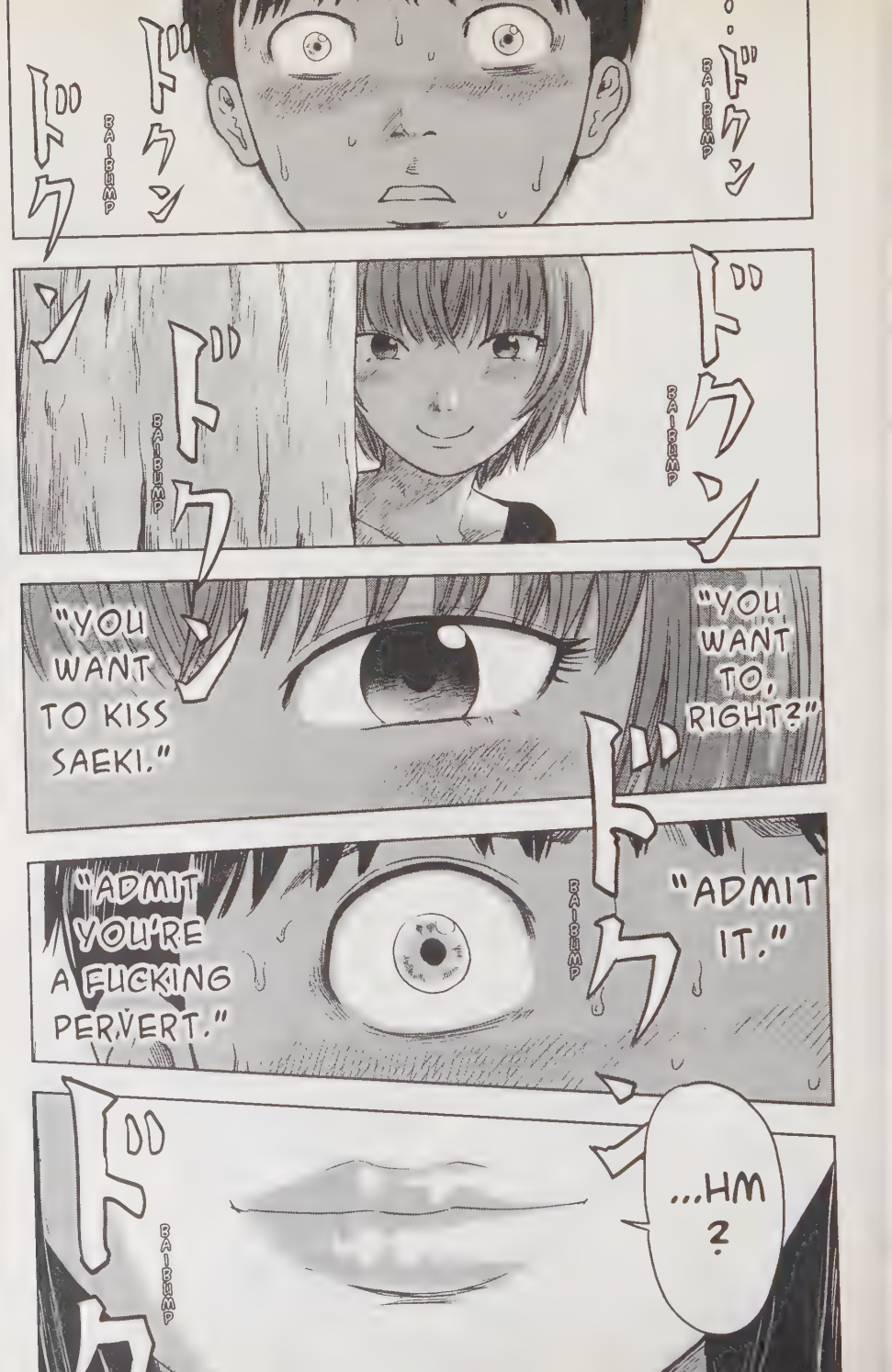




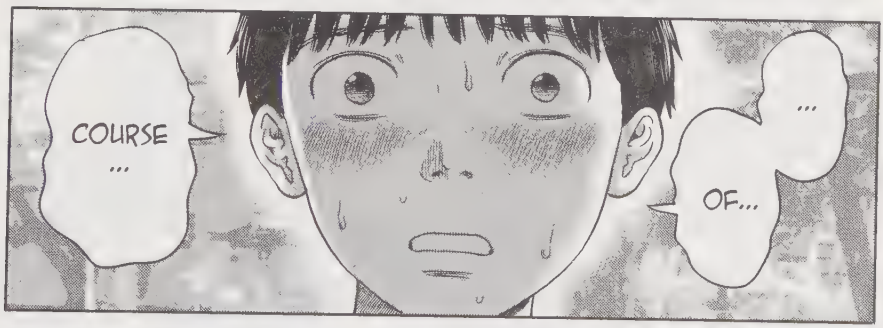



ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP

ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP


ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
ドクン
BA-BUMP
"YOU WANT TO KISS SAEKI."
"YOU WANT TO, RIGHT?"
ドクン
BA-BUMP
"ADMIT YOU'RE A FUCKING PERVERT."
"ADMIT IT."
ドクン
BA-BUMP
...HM?

You're a strange person, Kasuga.
Will you come out with me again?


...
OF...
COURSE ...

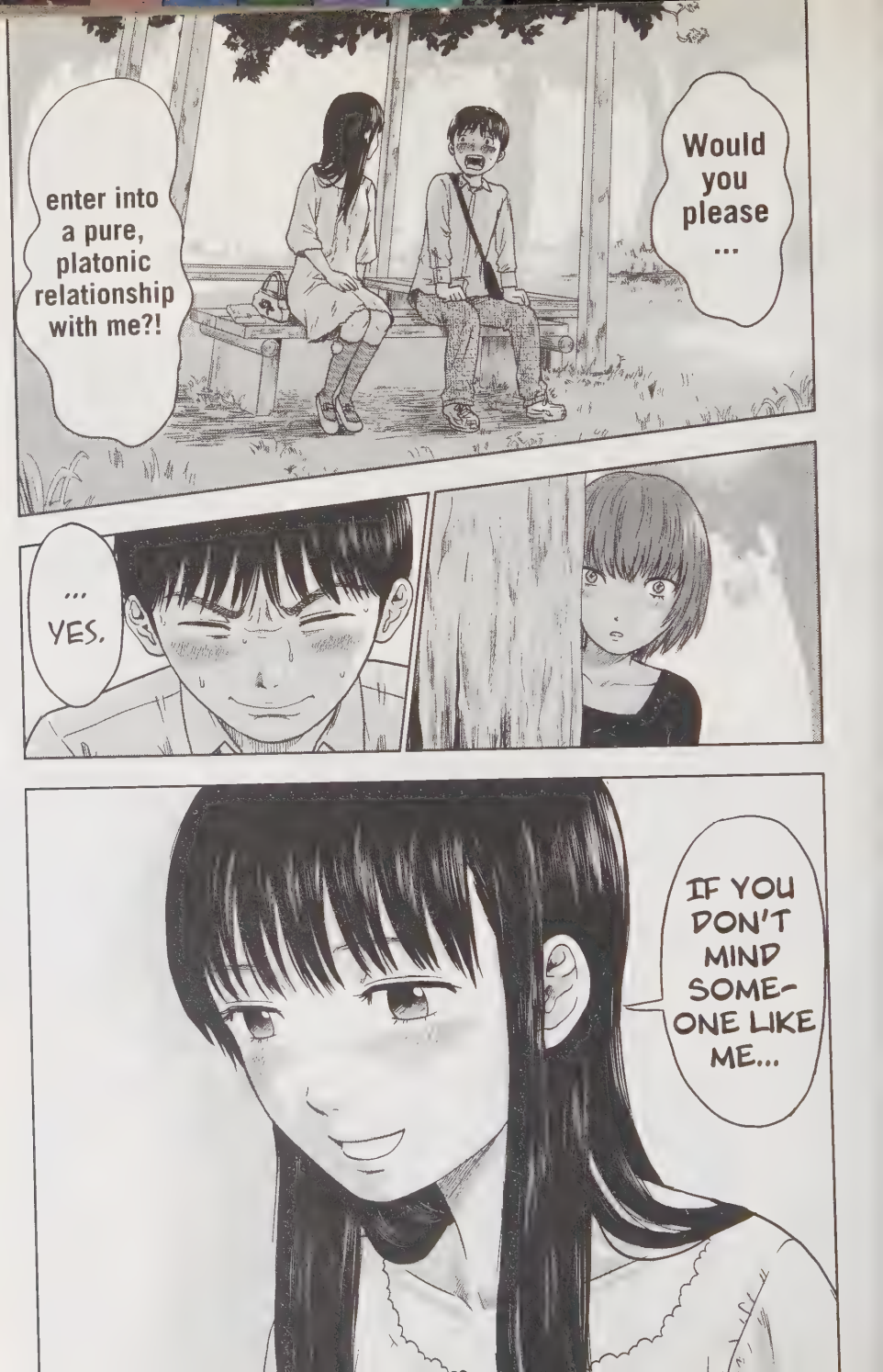
SO ...
SHALL WE GO HOME ?

SAEKI !
2-1
Saeki
Will ...
Would you please ...
enter into a pure, platonic relationship with me?!

I'M NOT A PER-VERT!
NO! I'M ... I'M NOT ...
HUH?!
...

IF YOU DON'T MIND... SOME-ONE LIKE ME.

...
YES.

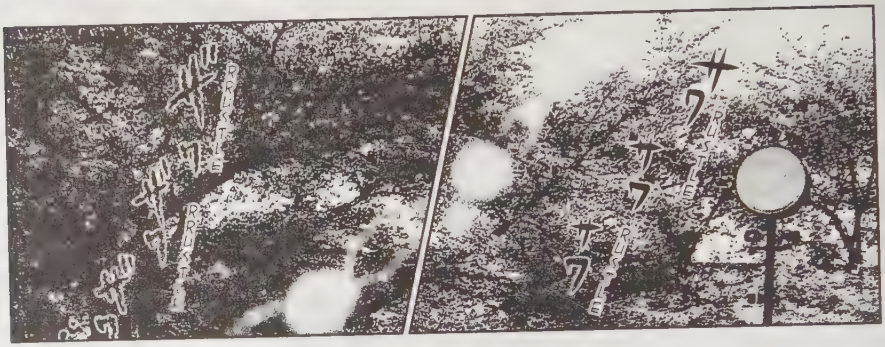

Would you please ...
enter into a pure, platonic relationship with me?!
... YES.
IF YOU DON'T MIND SOME-ONE LIKE ME...

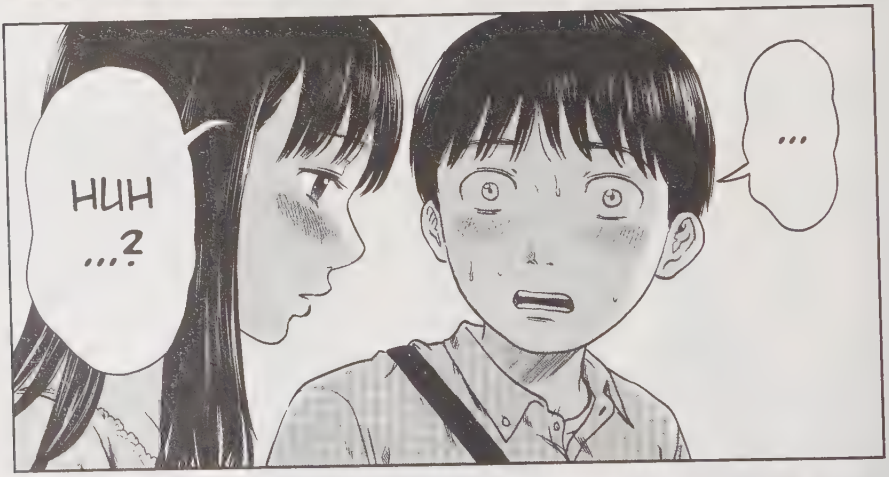
Afterword

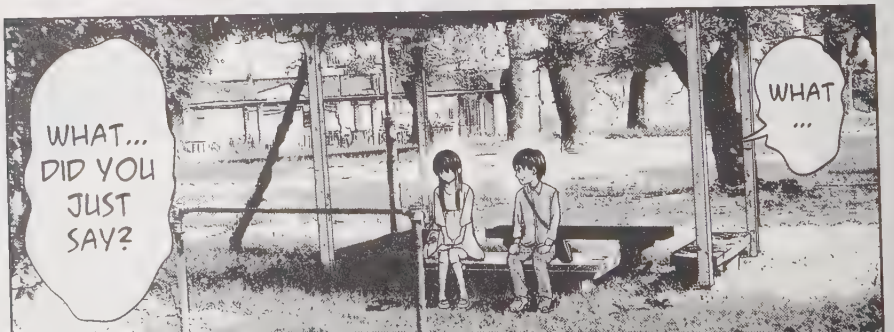
Chapter 7

Regarding the surrealism that Kasuga unsolicitedly explained in the bookstore: André Breton was a Frenchman. In 1924, he published the "Principles of Surrealism."
He gathered like-minded artists around him and established a group. When my middle-school-aged self looked at photographs of the group, I was blown away by how cool they all were.
Gazing at the illustrations of people like Max Ernst and Paul Delvaux made me pant.

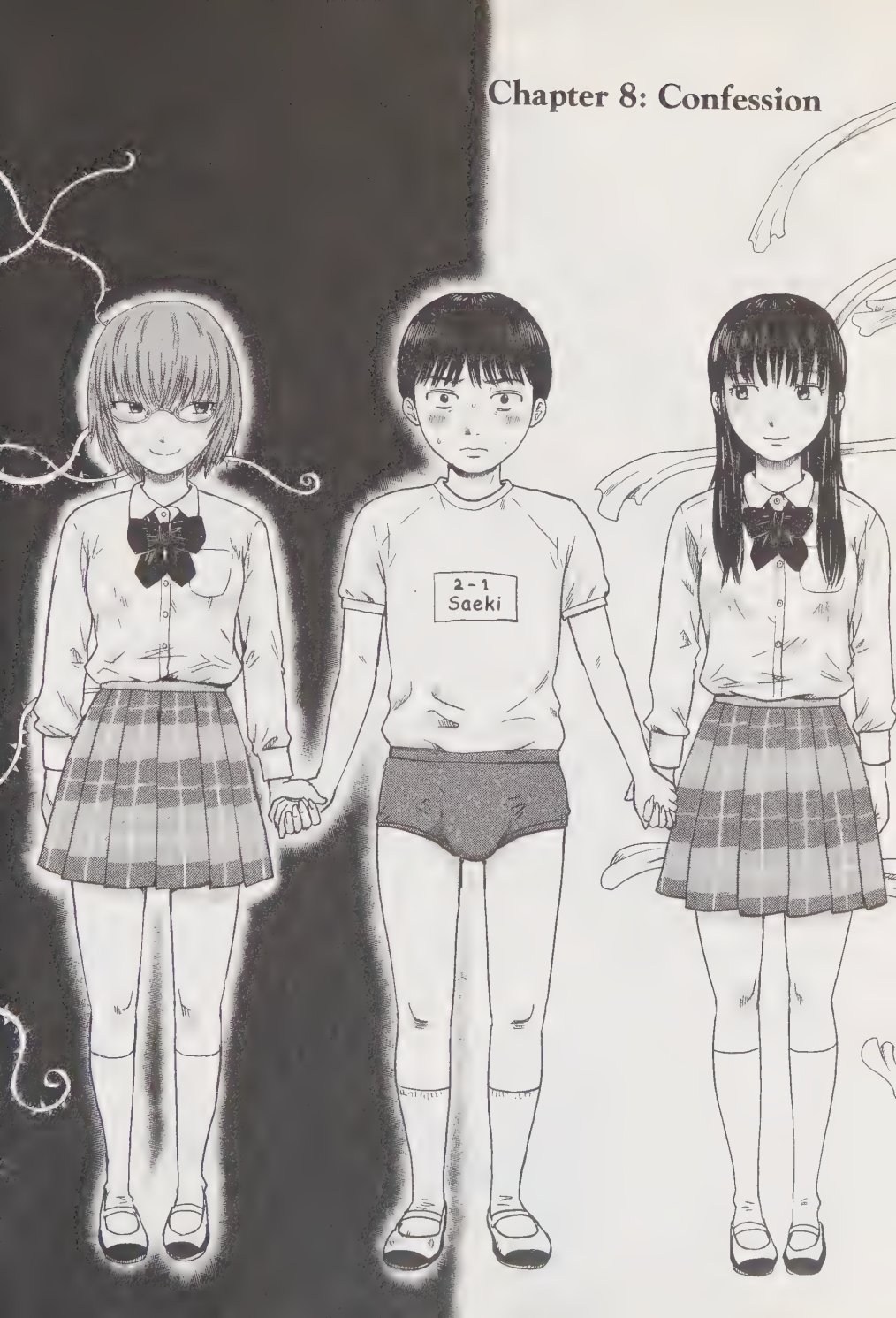
ガアー
CAW
ガアー
CAW

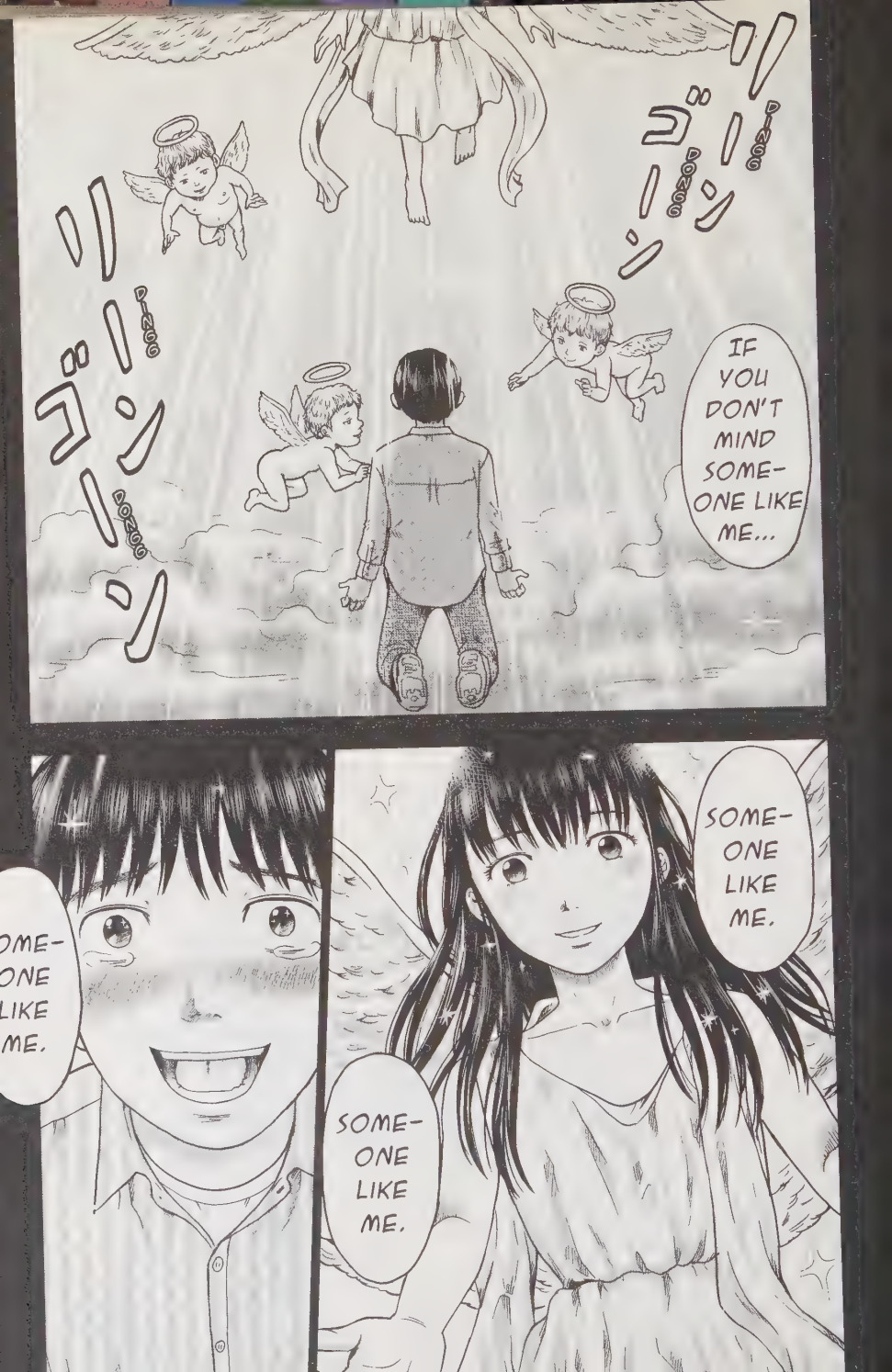



HUH ...?
...

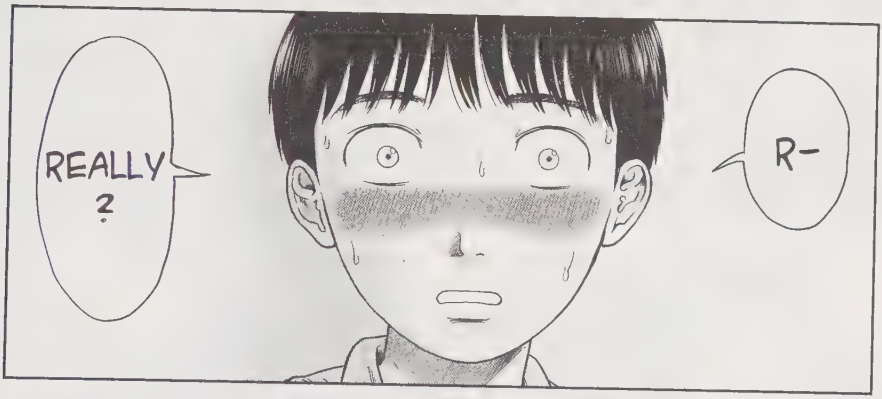

WHAT... DID YOU JUST SAY?
WHAT ...

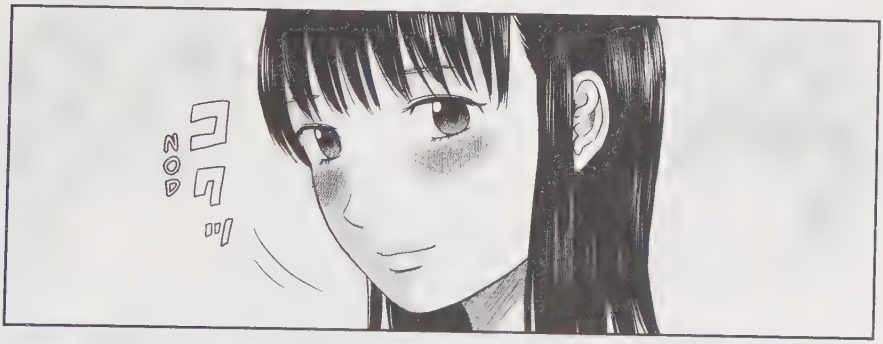
Chapter 8: Confession

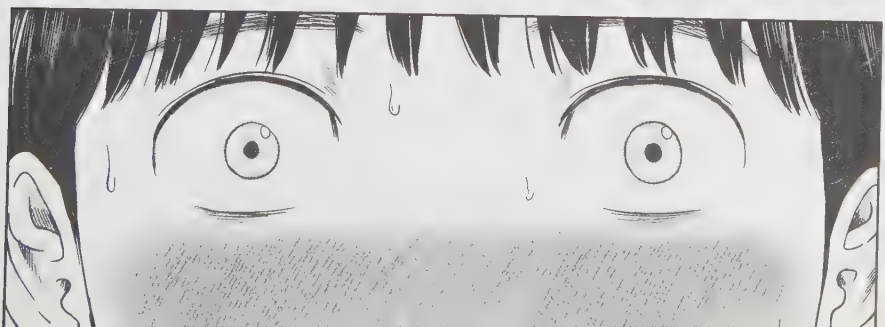


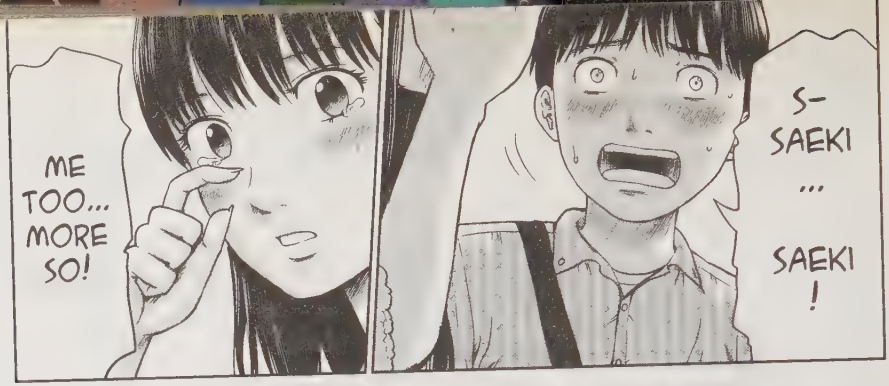

DING
DONG
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
IF YOU DON'T MIND SOME-ONE LIKE ME...
SOME-ONE LIKE ME.
SOME-ONE LIKE ME.
OME-
ONE
LIKE
ME.

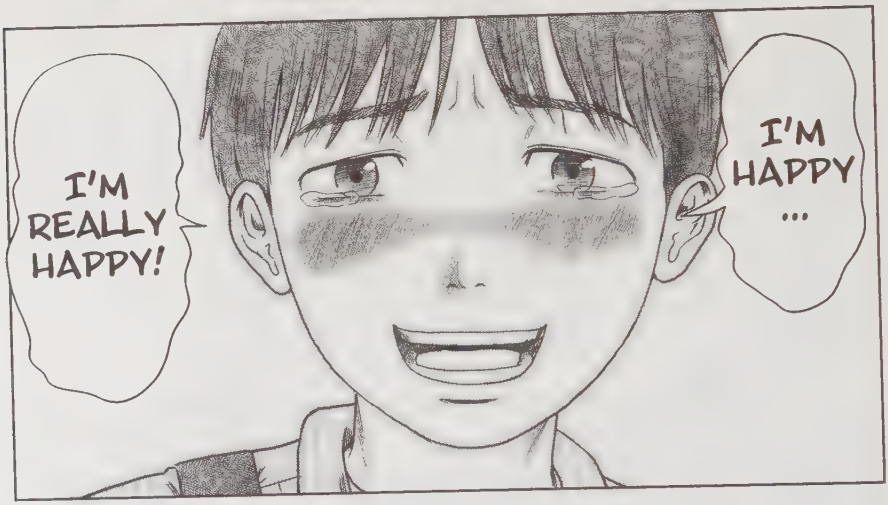
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME...
I SAID ...

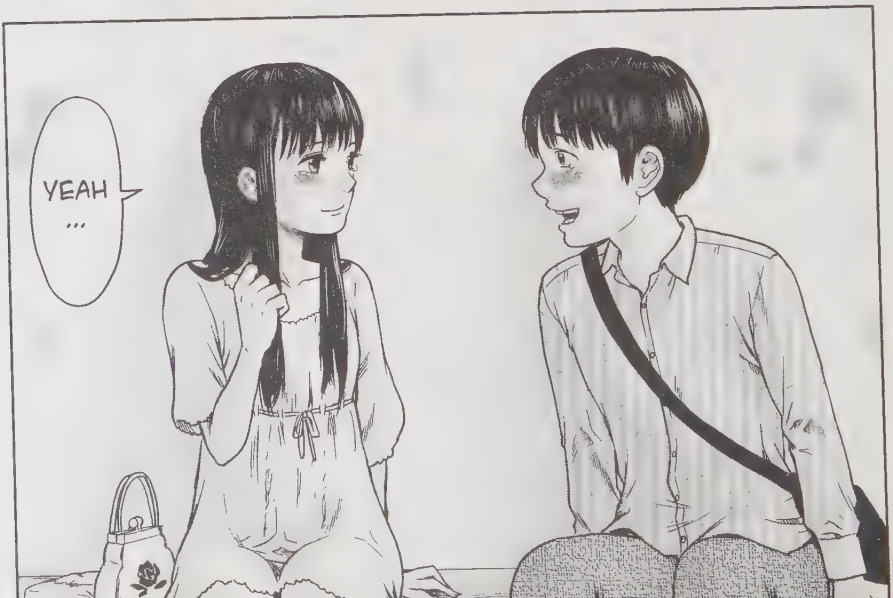

REALLY ?
R-

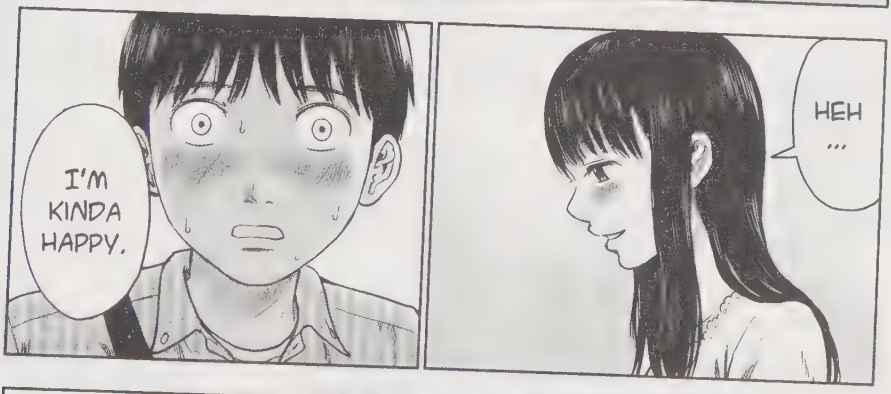

コク
NOD

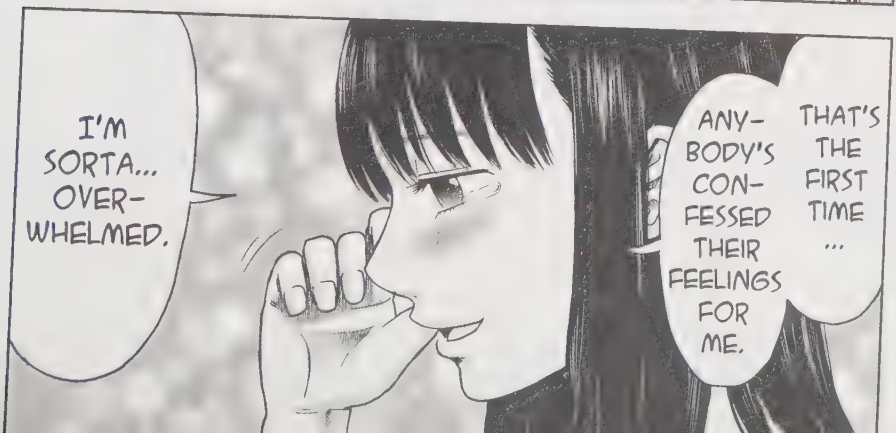



S-
SAEKI
...
SAEKI
!
ME
TOO...
MORE
SO!


I'M
HAPPY
...
I'M
REALLY
HAPPY!


YEAH
...


I'M KINDA HAPPY.
HEH ...


I'M SORTA... OVER-WHELMED.
ANY-BODY'S CON-FESSED THEIR FEELINGS FOR ME.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ...

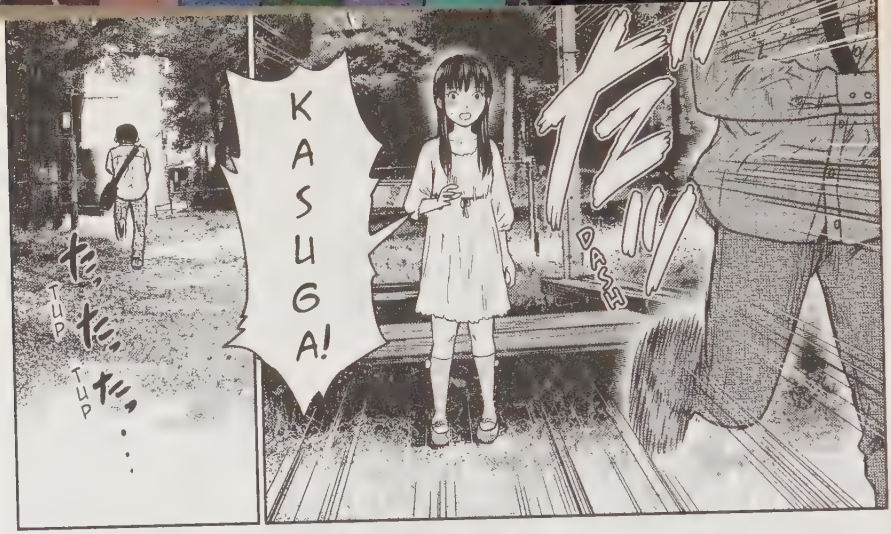
HUH ?!
ガラン KLAAK
ガラン KLAAK
!
たっ TUP
たっ TUP
たっ…
HAH …
BUH …
ポタ PLIP
ポタ PLIP

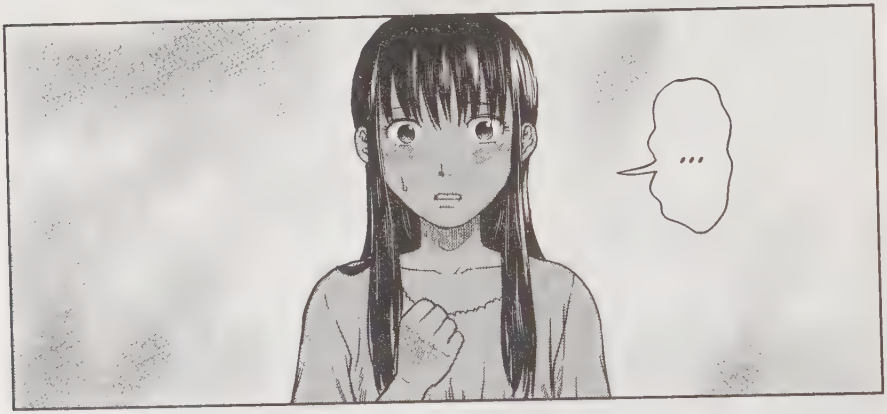
SPLASH

waaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
WHA
?!
FLINCH
Don't
...
Don't
look
at
me!
WHF

AH ...
OH ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KASUGA ?

YOUR CLOTHES ARE SOAKED ...


KASUGA!
DASH
TUP TUP
TUP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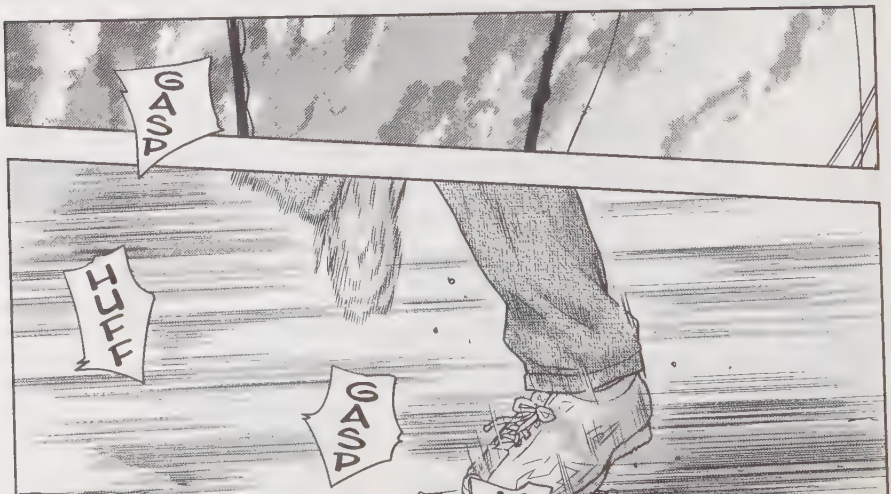
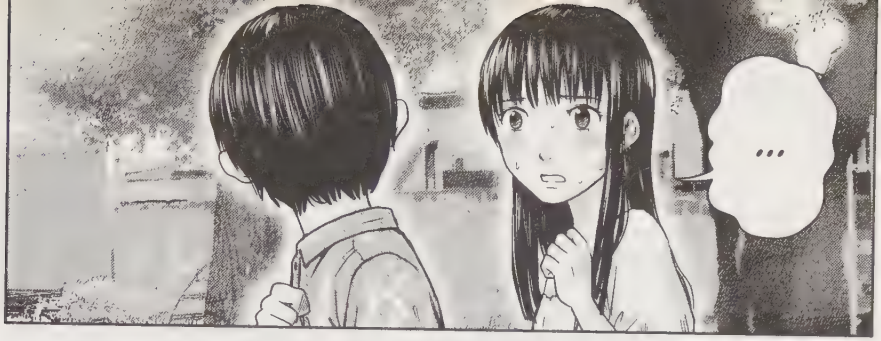
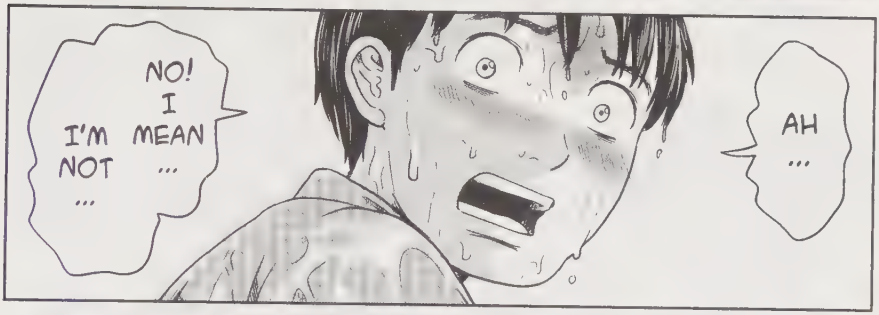
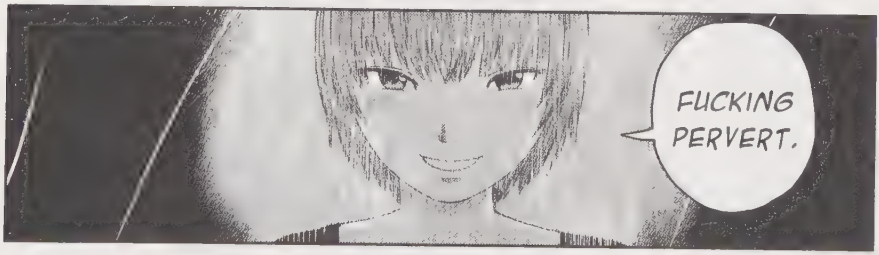
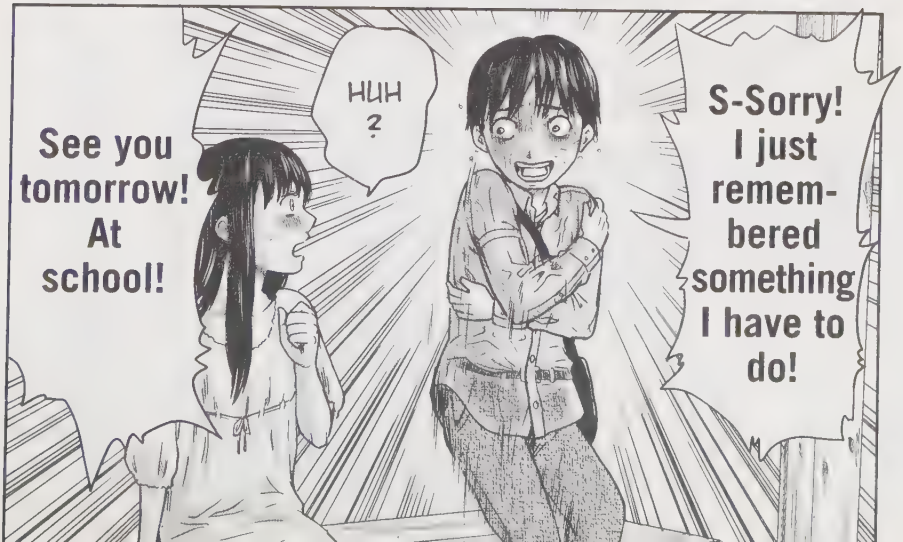

GASP
HUFF
GASP


...

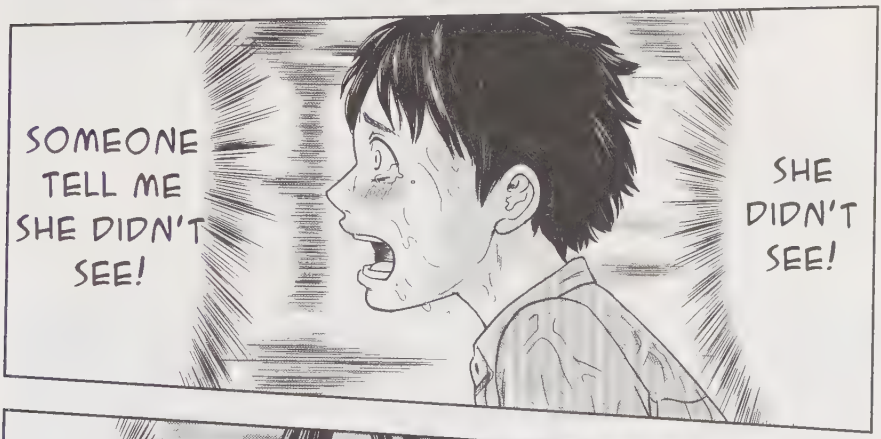

NO! I I'M MEAN NOT ...
...
AH ...

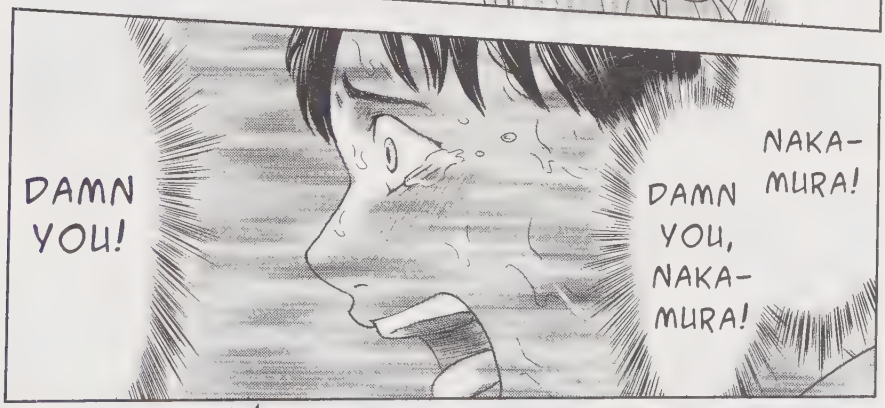

FUCKING PERVERT.


See you tomorrow! At school!
HUH ?
S-Sorry! I just remembered something I have to do!

YOU'RE AWFUL!
YOU'RE AWFUL, NAKA-MURA!

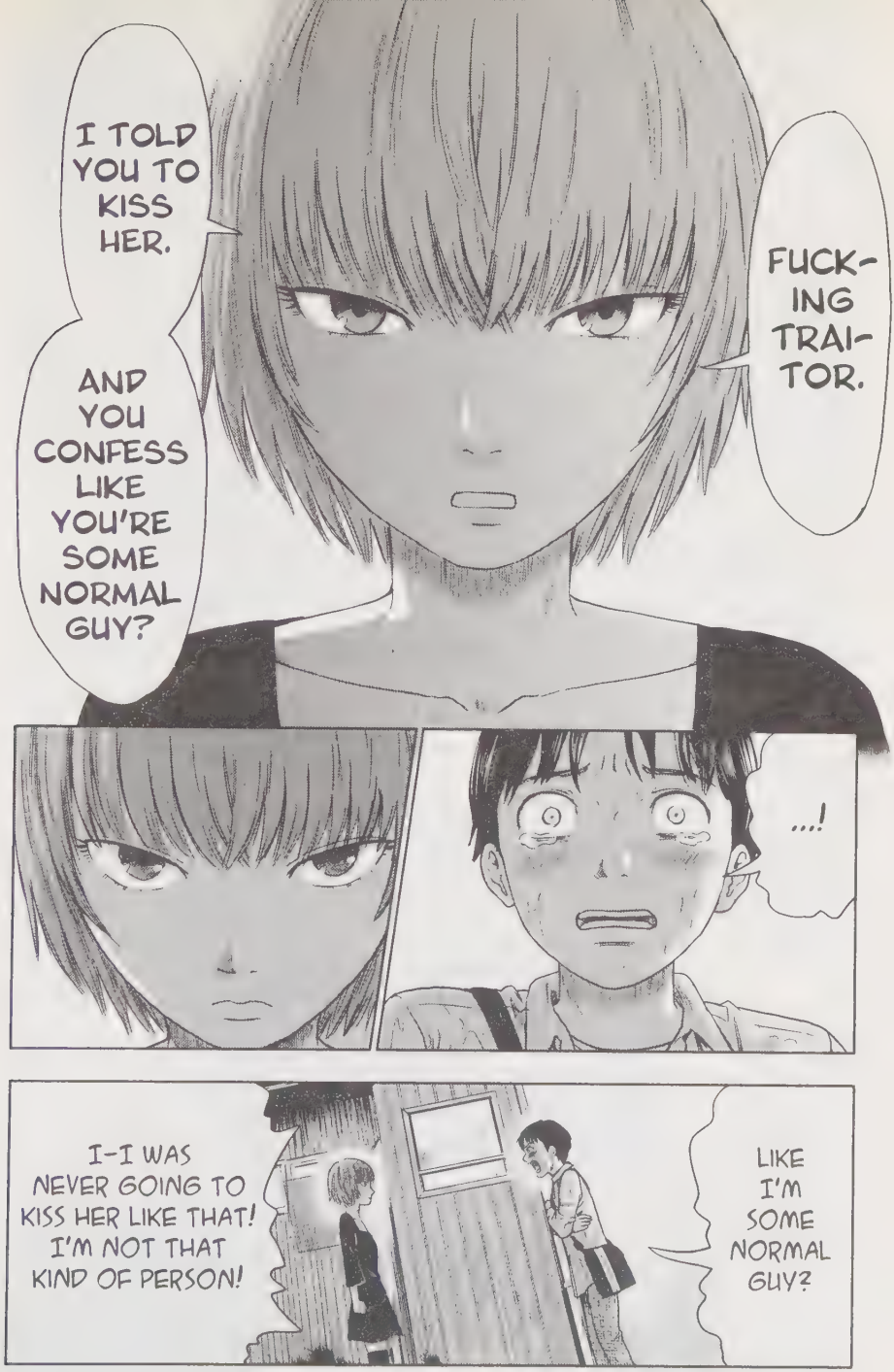
SHE DIDN'T, RIGHT?
DID SHE SEE?!

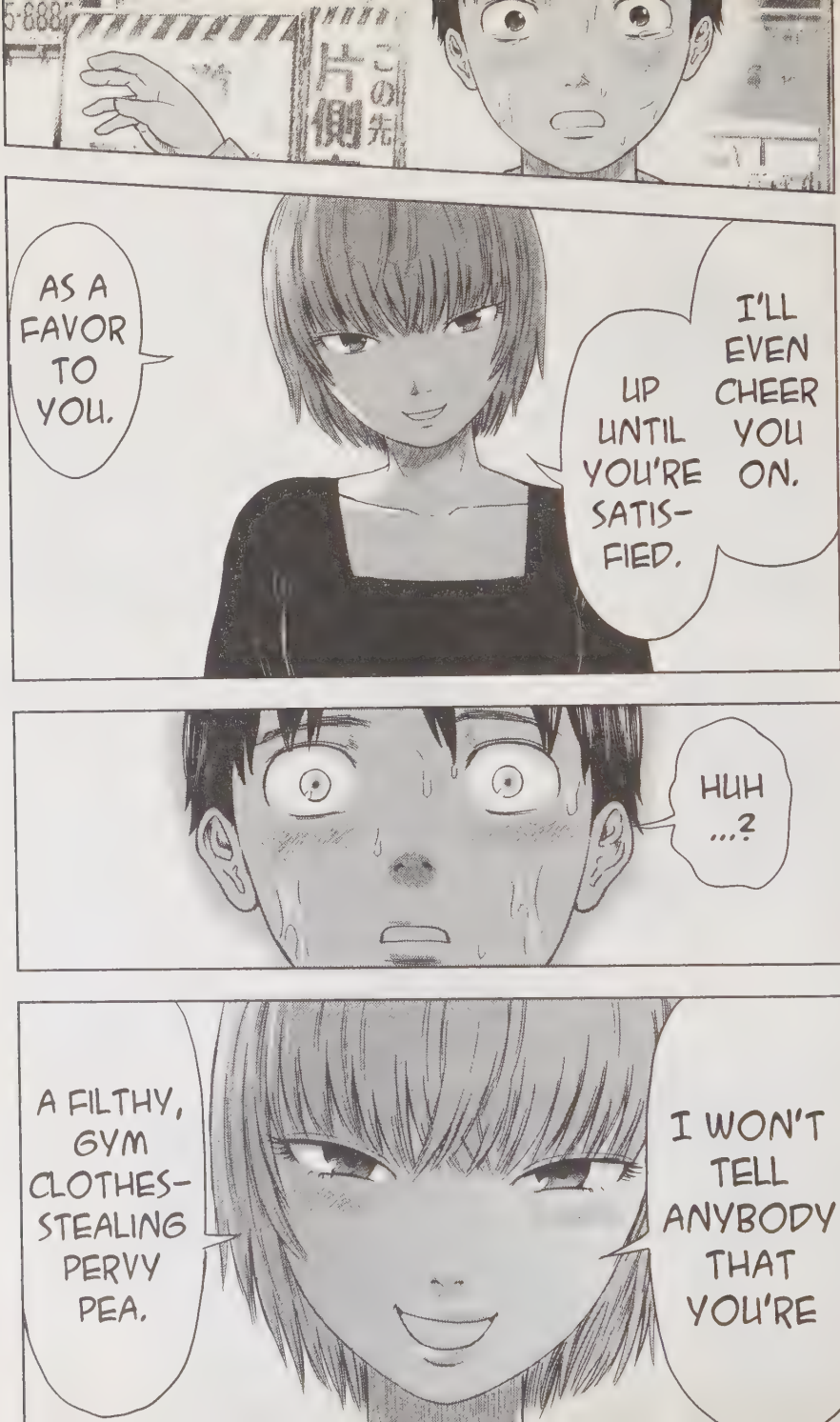

SOMEONE TELL ME SHE DIDN'T SEE!
SHE DIDN'T SEE!

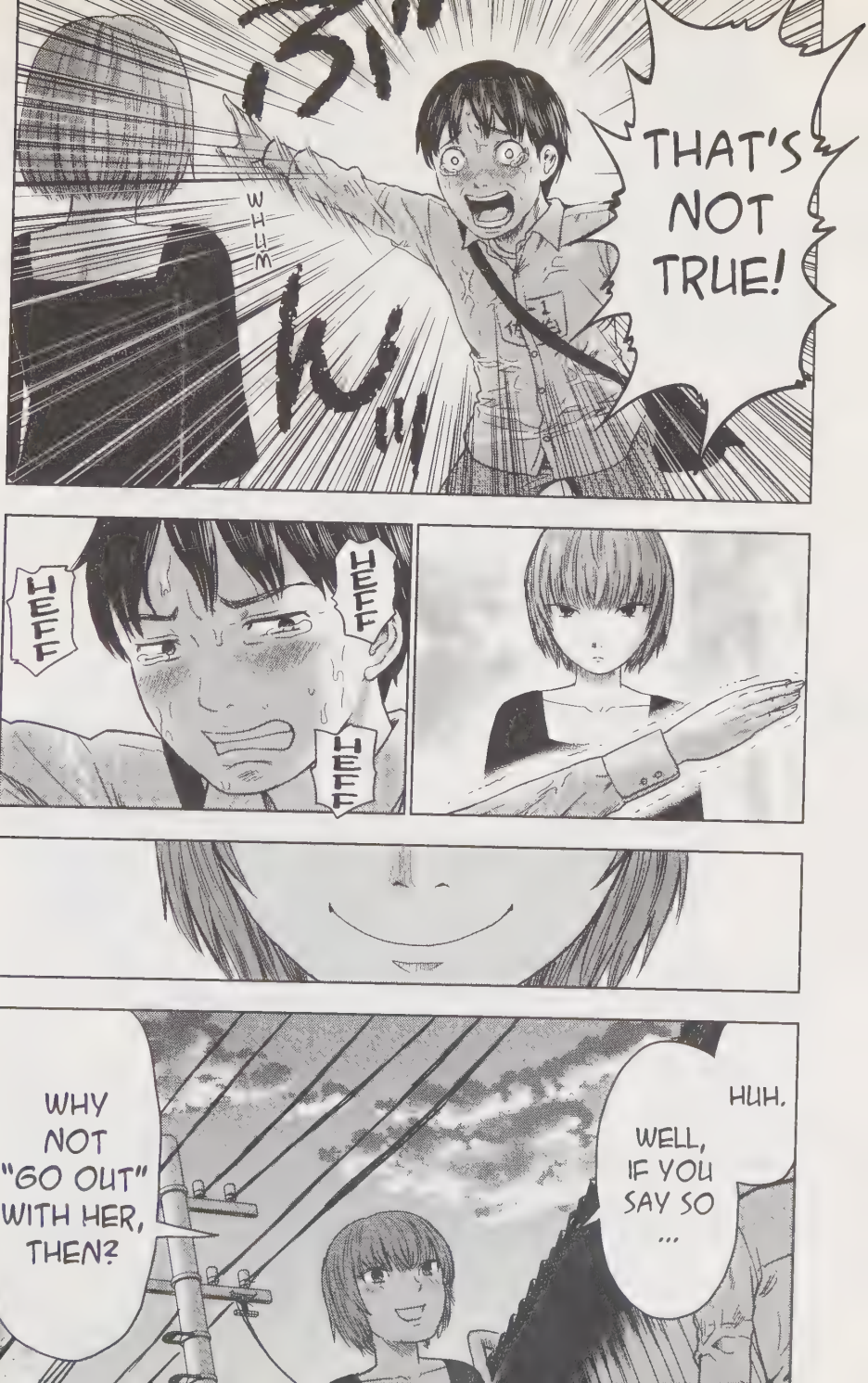

DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU, NAKA-MURA!
NAKA-MURA!

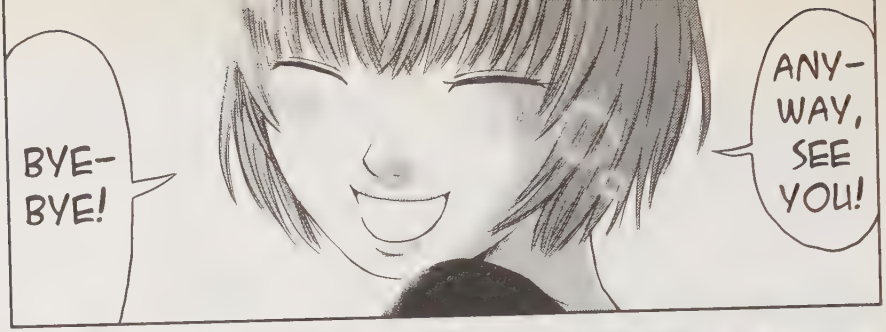
FLINCH
!!!

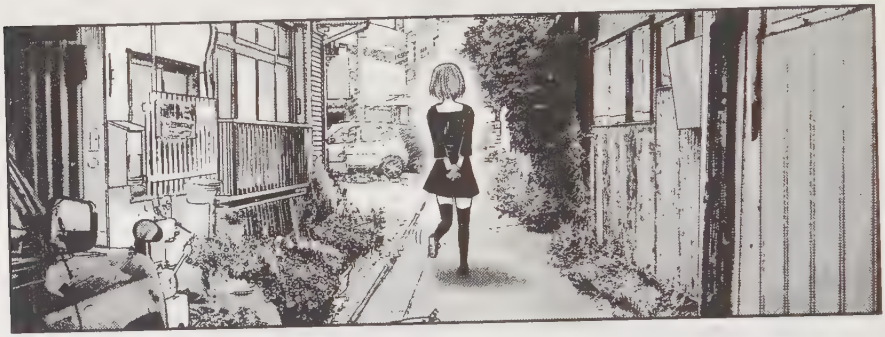
...
YOU WORE HER GYM CLOTHES AND IT TURNED YOU ON!
BULLSHIT! YOU WANTED TO!
shitty fucking perverse turd-man !
You're a yucky slimy

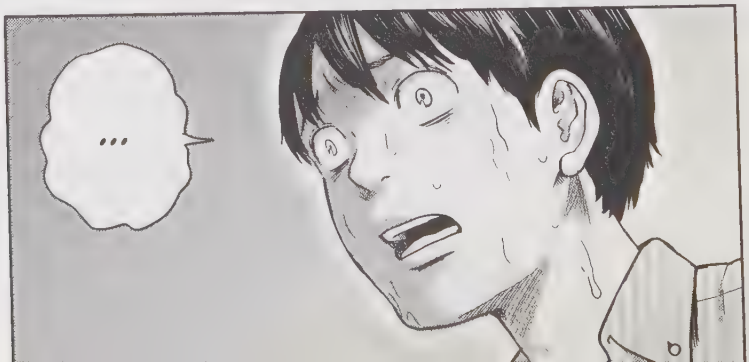

I TOLD YOU TO KISS HER.
AND YOU CONFESS LIKE YOU'RE SOME NORMAL GUY?
FUCK-ING TRAI-TOR.
...!
I-I WAS NEVER GOING TO KISS HER LIKE THAT! I'M NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON!
LIKE I'M SOME NORMAL GUY?


この先
片側
I'LL EVEN CHEER YOU ON.
UP UNTIL YOU'RE SATIS-FIED.
AS A FAVOR TO YOU.
HUH ...?
I WON'T TELL ANYBODY THAT YOU'RE
A FILTHY, GYM CLOTHES-STEALING PERVY PEA.


WHUM
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
HEFF
HEFF
HEFF
WHY NOT "GO OUT" WITH HER, THEN?
HUH.
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO ...

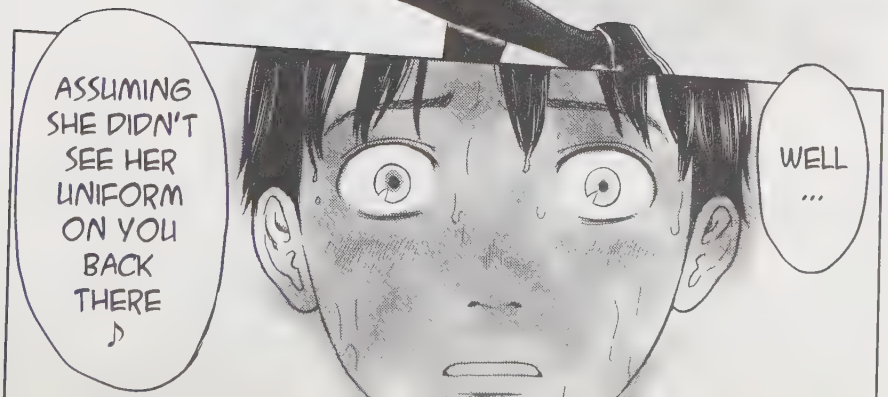

BYE-BYE!
ANY-WAY, SEE YOU!




...

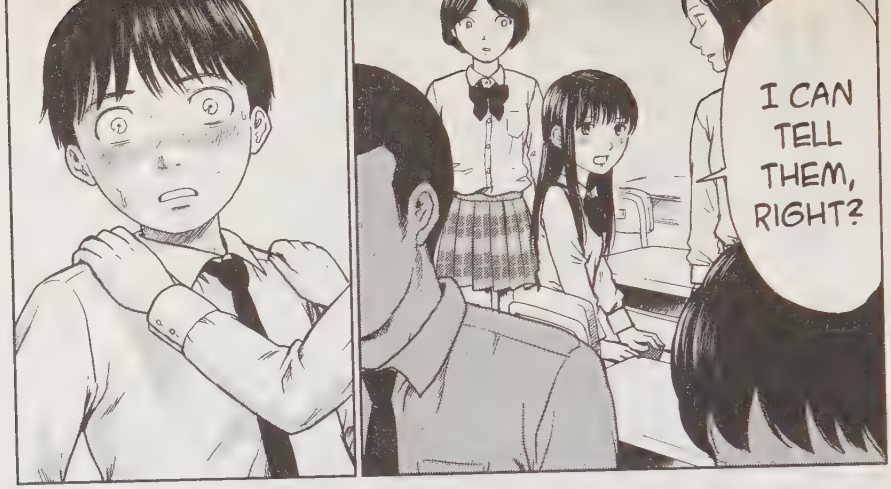
YUP ♪
REALLY ...?
RE ...

I'LL SEE YOU OUT ALL THE WAY.

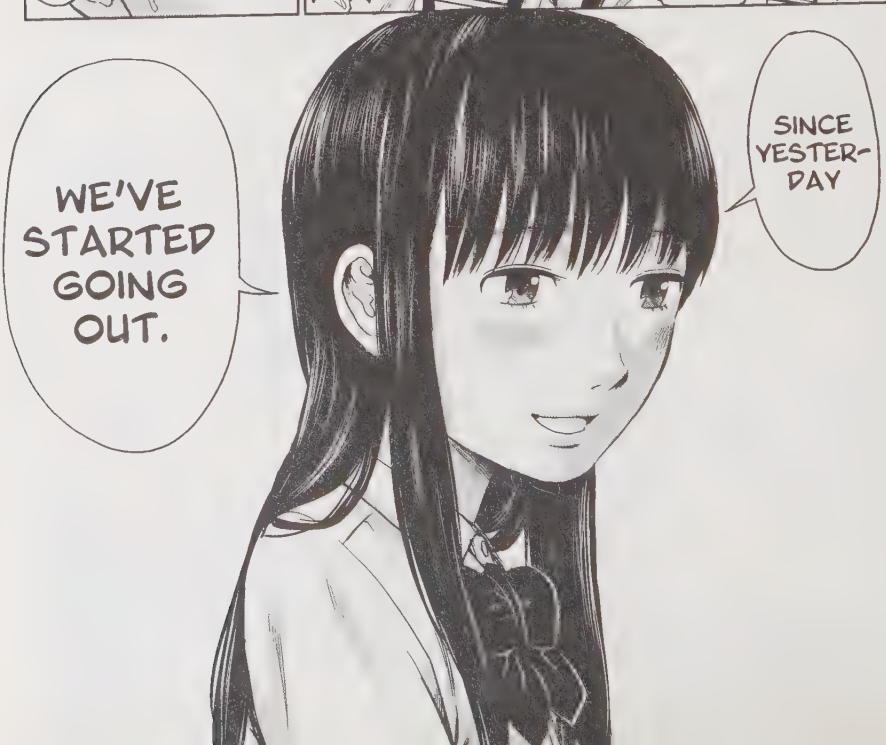

ASSUMING SHE DIDN'T SEE HER UNIFORM ON YOU BACK THERE ♪
WELL ...

KASU-
GA!

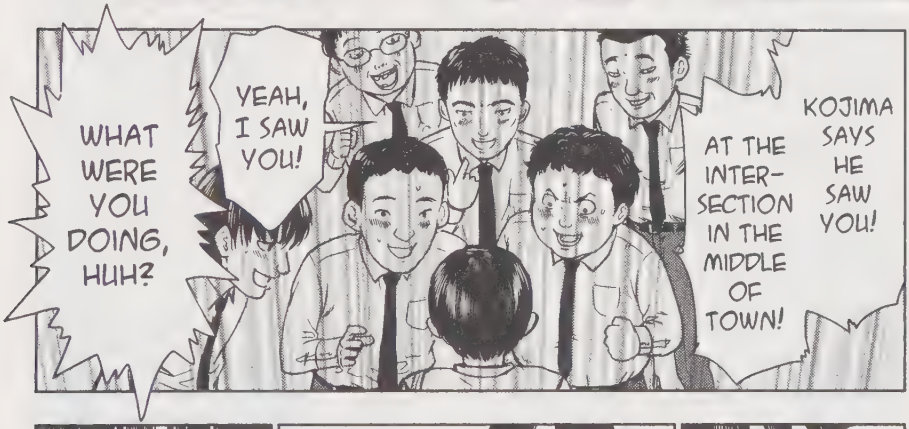
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DING
コーン
DONG
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER
CHATTER
ガヤ
IT'S OKAY. IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!
IT'S OKAY. SAEKI DEFINITELY DIDN'T SEE IT!
SHE DIDN'T SEE...
ガラ
SLIDE

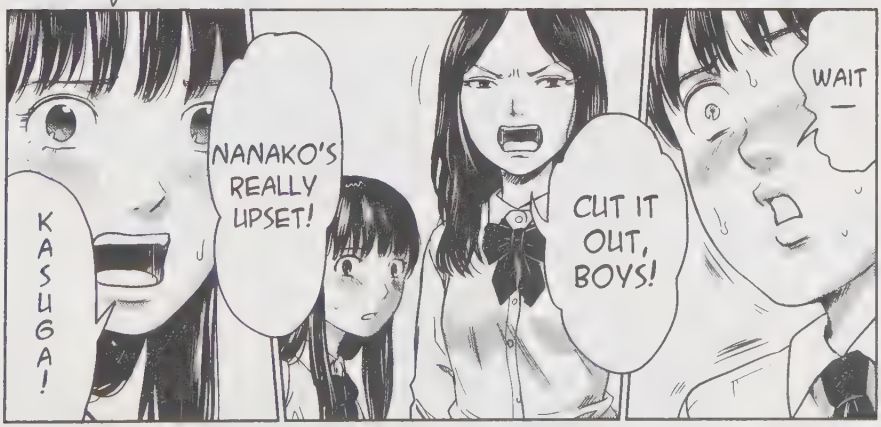

I CAN TELL THEM, RIGHT?

YOU SEE ...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
WHAT, WHAT?
HUH?

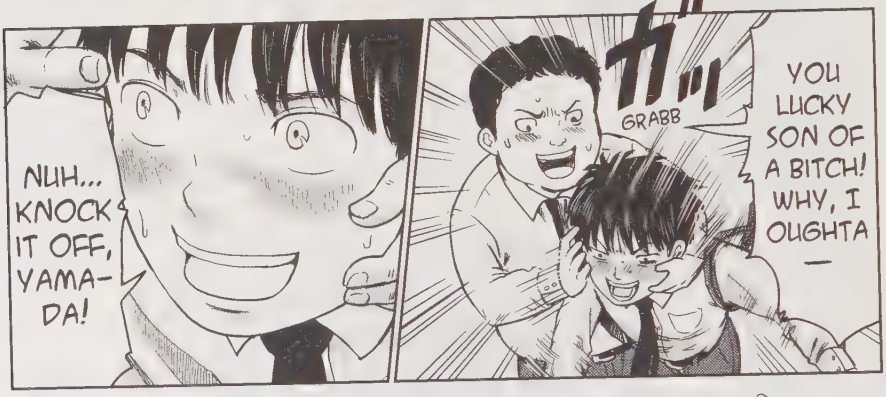

WE'VE STARTED GOING OUT.
SINCE YESTER-DAY

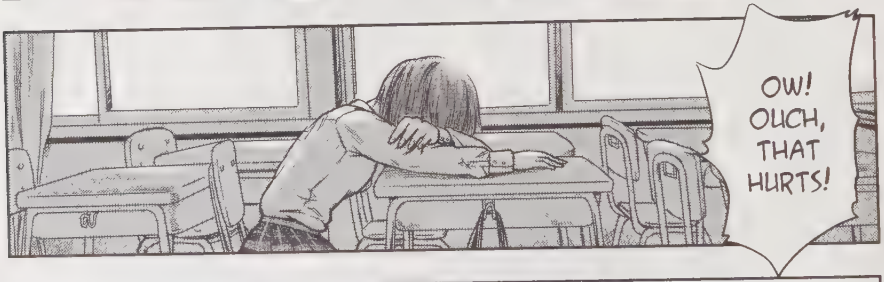
HUH ...?
I hear you were walkin' around with Saeki yesterday !
Hey, Kasu-ga!
ハア
ハア

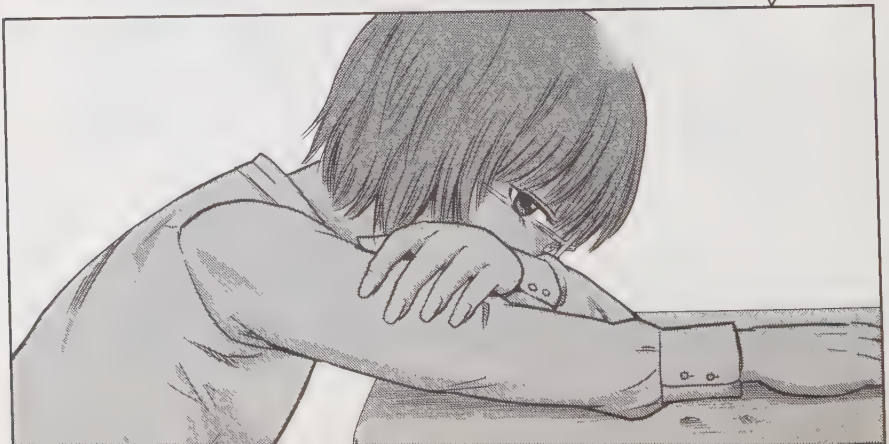

WHAT WERE YOU DOING, HUH?
YEAH, I SAW YOU!
AT THE INTER-SECTION IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN!
KOJIMA SAYS HE SAW YOU!

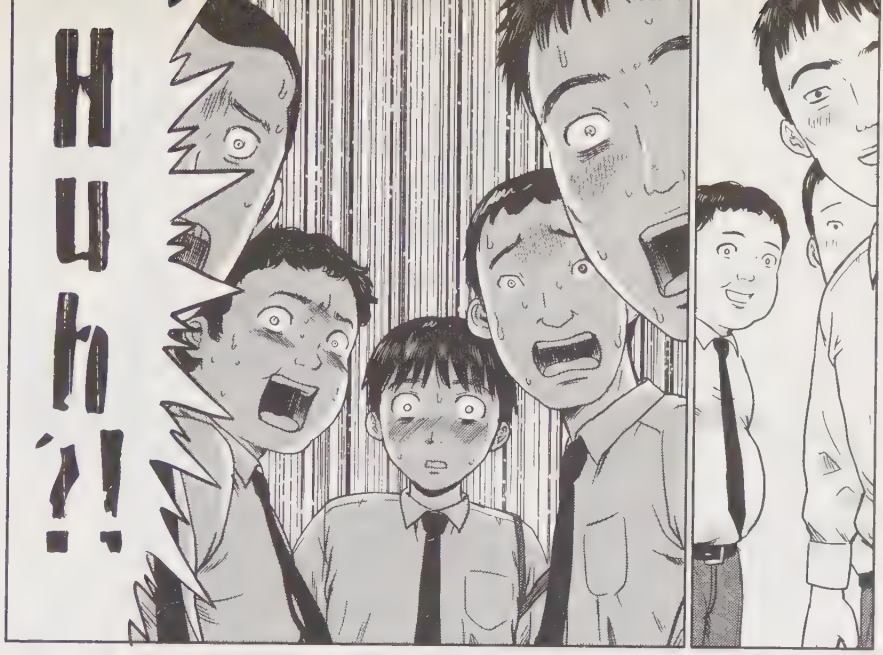

KASUGA!
NANAKO'S REALLY UPSET!
CUT IT OUT, BOYS!
WAIT —

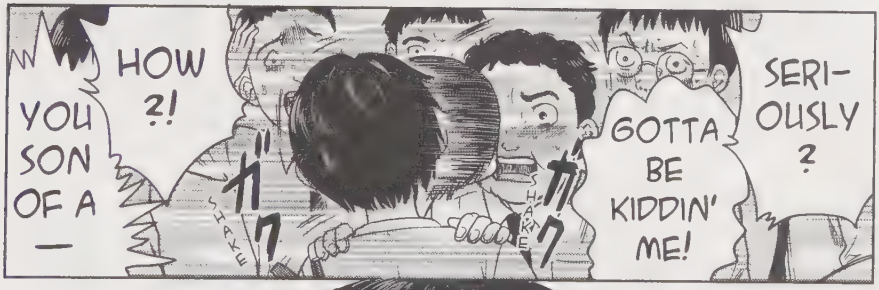
WHOA!
OH MAN!
SA-EKI ...
OOF!


NUH... KNOCK IT OFF, YAMA-DA!
ガッ
GRABB
YOU LUCKY SON OF A BITCH! WHY, I OUGHTA —

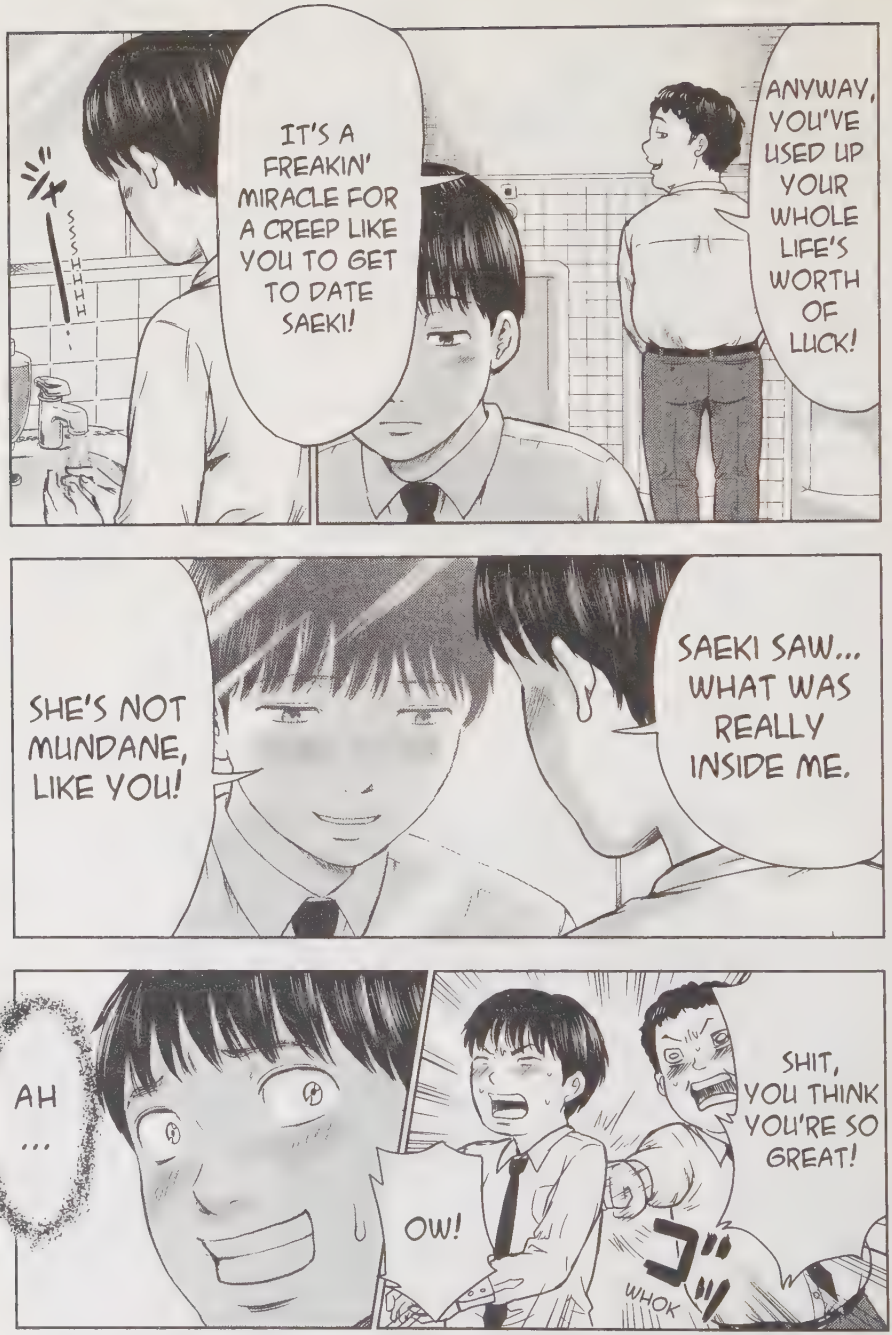

OW! OUCH, THAT HURTS!

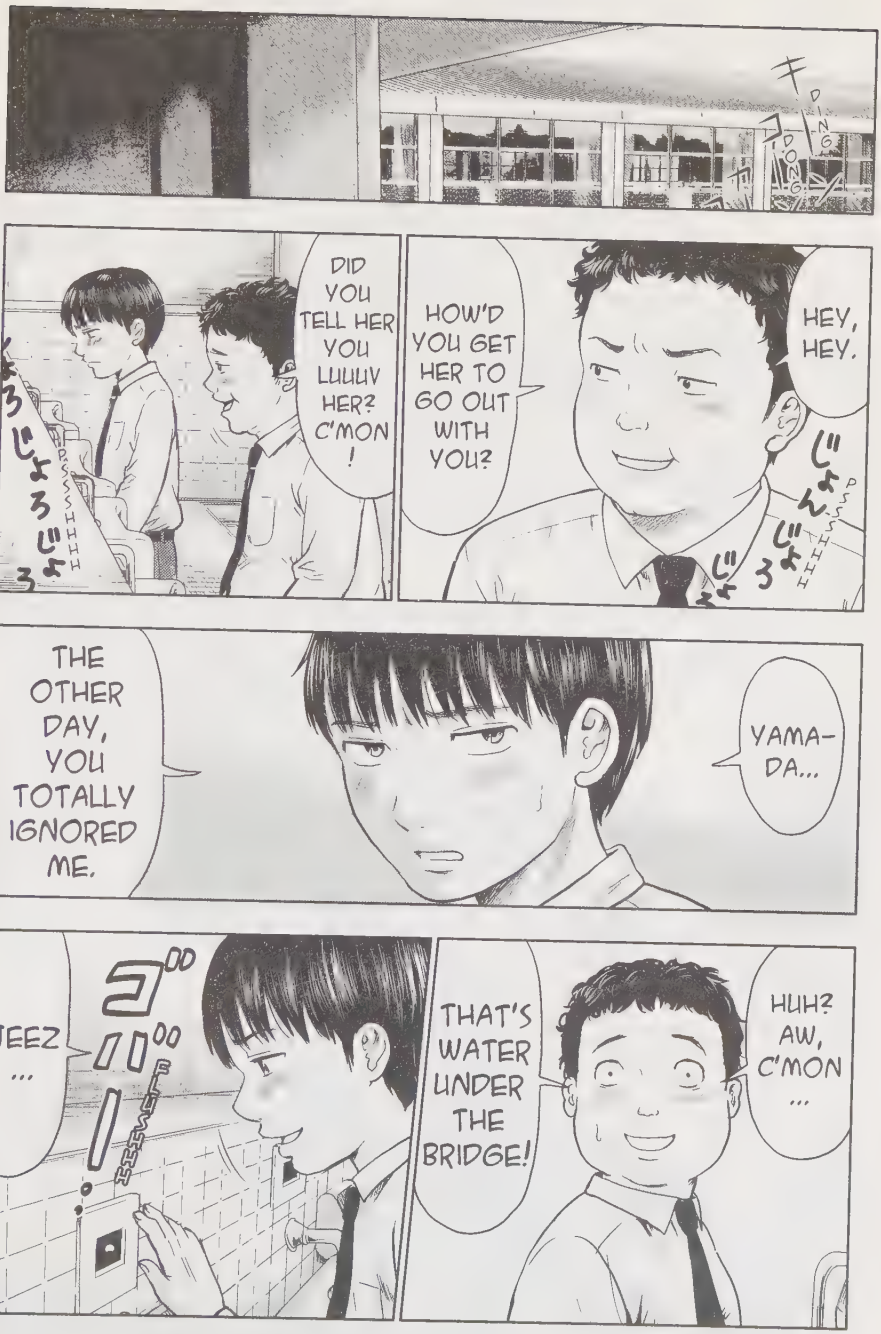


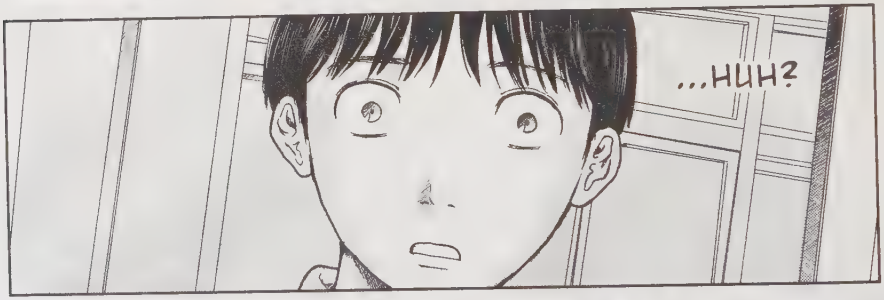

Huh?!

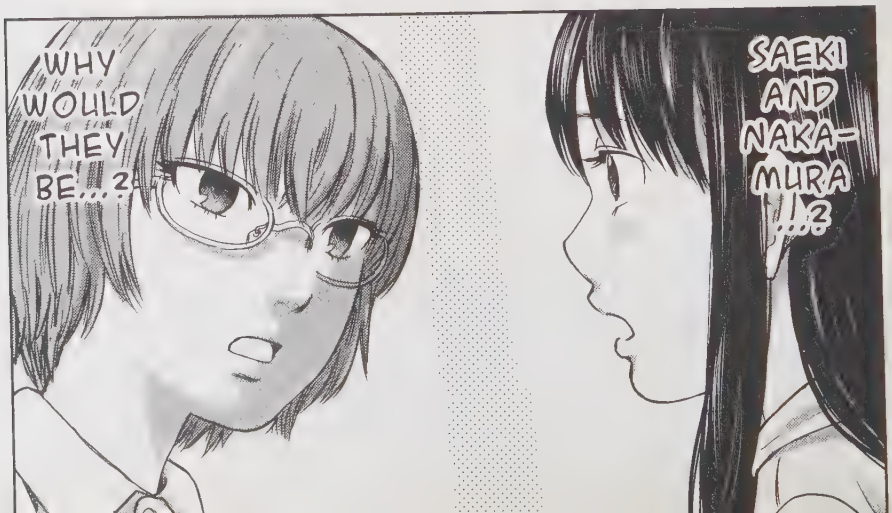

SERI-OUSLY?
GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME!
HOW?!
YOU SON OF A—
ガク
ガク

WAIT JUST A SECOND, NANA-KO!
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THAT GLOOMY LOSER?
WELL...
KASUGA KNOWS ABOUT THINGS THAT NOBODY ELSE IN THE CLASS KNOWS.

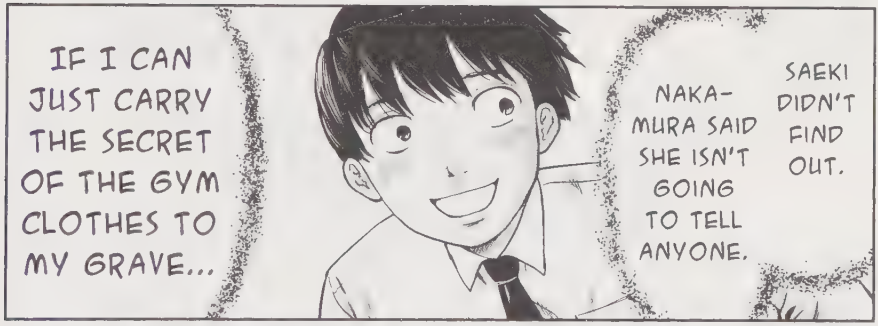

SSSSHHHH
IT'S A FREAKIN' MIRACLE FOR A CREEP LIKE YOU TO GET TO DATE SAEKI!
ANYWAY, YOU'VE USED UP YOUR WHOLE LIFE'S WORTH OF LUCK!
SHE'S NOT MUNDANE, LIKE YOU!
SAEKI SAW... WHAT WAS REALLY INSIDE ME.
AH ...
OW!
WHOK
SHIT, YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT!

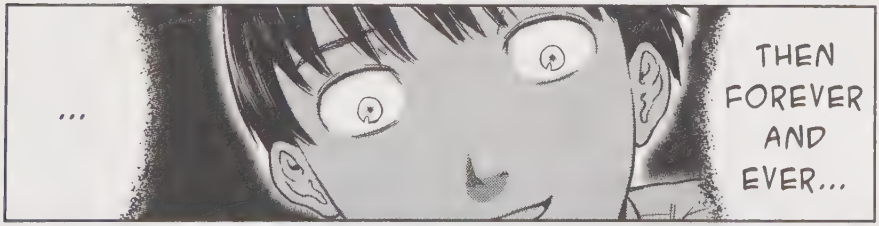

DING DONG
HEY, HEY.
HOW'D YOU GET HER TO GO OUT WITH YOU?
DID YOU TELL HER YOU LUUUV HER? C'MON!
THE OTHER DAY, YOU TOTALLY IGNORED ME.
YAMA-DA...
HUH? AW, C'MON...
THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE!
JEEZ...

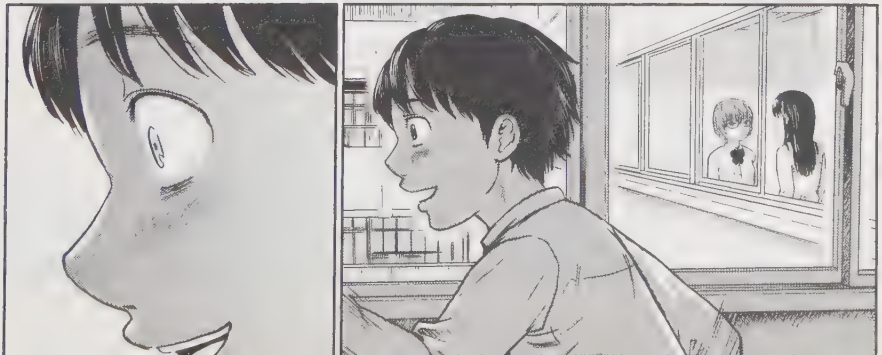

...HUH?


WHY WOULD THEY BE...?
SAEKI AND NAKA-MURA...!?

SINCE I'VE FELT THIS LIGHT-HEARTED.
Knock it off!
Hey!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG


IF I CAN JUST CARRY THE SECRET OF THE GYM CLOTHES TO MY GRAVE...
NAKA-MURA SAID SHE ISN'T GOING TO TELL ANYONE.
SAEKI DIDN'T FIND OUT.


...
THEN FOREVER AND EVER...



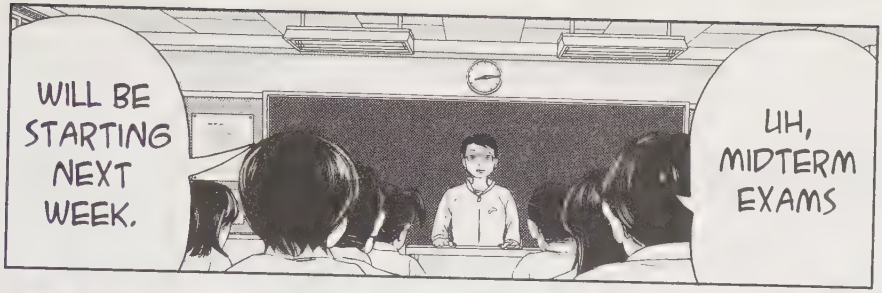
Chapter 9: The Fraying String

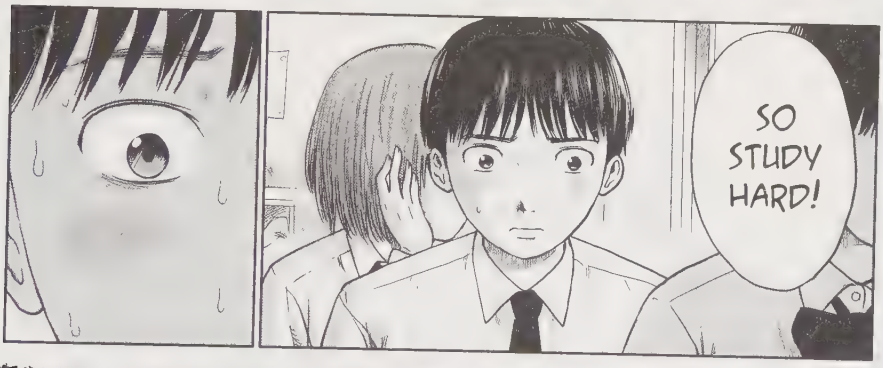
Afterword

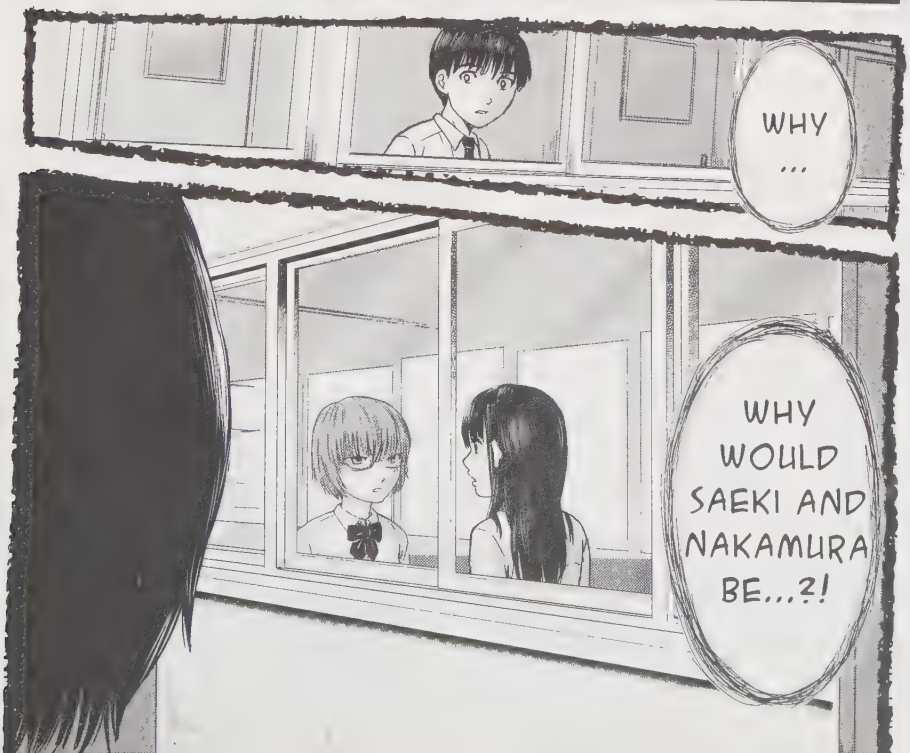
Chapter 8

The park where Kasuga confesses his feelings to Saeki is a park about a minute's walk from the house where I grew up. I played there as a kid all the time. Now it's full of weeds, only the frame of the swing-set remains, the slide has been removed, and it's nothing more than an empty lot. While the areas flanking the bypass highway thrive, the central part of my countryside hometown is fading fast.

I-I'VE...
NEVER SEEN THEM TALKING BEFORE.
SURELY NAKAMURA DIDN'T...
TELL HER ABOUT THE UNIFORM?!
...NO, SAEKI SEEMS FINE. IT CAN'T BE THAT...
BUT... WHAT THEN ...?!
Stand! Bow!
ガタガタ
CLATTER
ギギ
ズズズ
SQUEEAK
Good-bye!
KASUGA —
...


WILL BE STARTING NEXT WEEK.
UH, MIDTERM EXAMS


SO STUDY HARD!

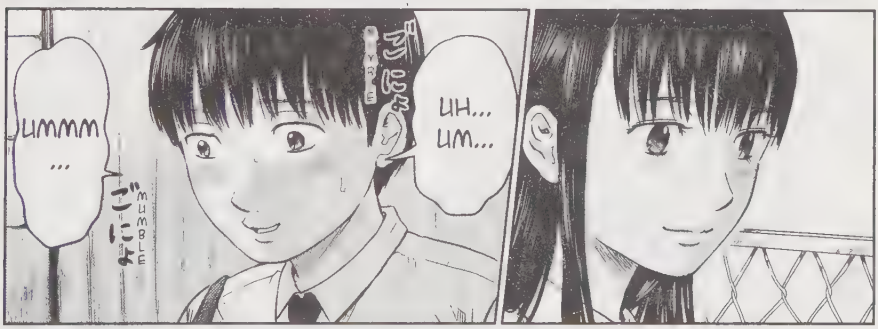

WHY ...
WHY WOULD SAEKI AND NAKAMURA BE...?!

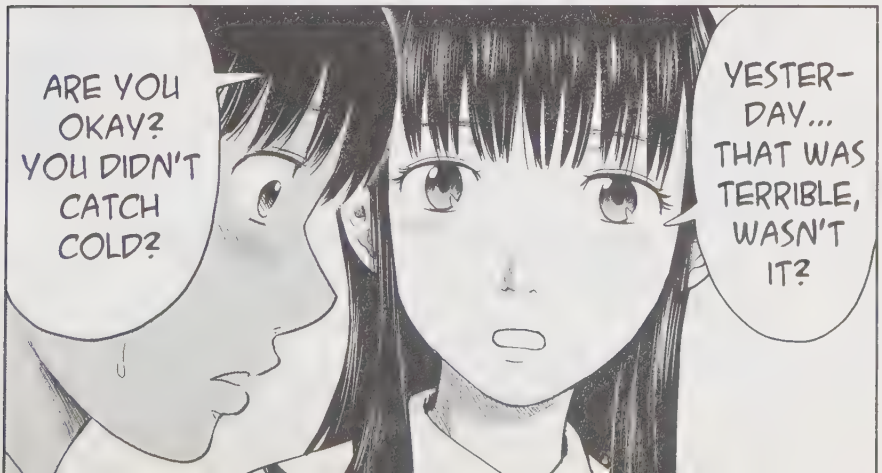
!
UH-OH! IT'S GETTIN' HOT IN HERE!
...
SLIDE
ガラ
LET'S GO.
HUH?
KASU-GA—
YEAH.
WOOOO

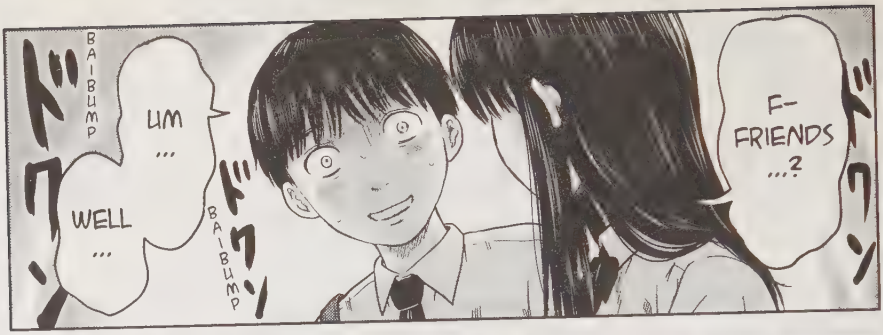
WANT TO WALK HOME WITH ME?
ER ...
UM ...
WOOOOO!
Of course!
Of... O-O-
CLATTER
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS!
BEAUTY AND THE CREEP!
YEAH, YEAH, WE GET IT.
YOU MAKE US BLUSH! FREAKIN' KASUGA!

EAH, I'M FINE! JUST FINE!
OH!
HUH?
I-I'M SORRY!
I MEAN, FOR JUST RUNNING RIGHT HOME ...
IT'S FINE.
I WAS SHOCK-ED, TOO.
I MEAN, JUST THROW-ING WATER ON YOU.
WHY DO THAT?
WHO WAS THAT, ANYWAY? IT WAS SO MEAN...

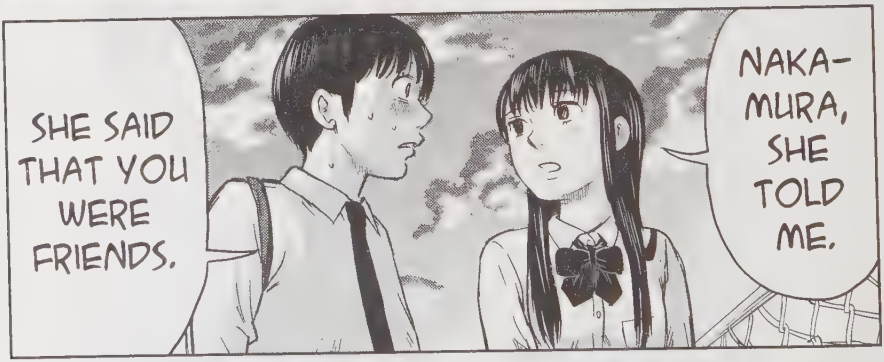
...

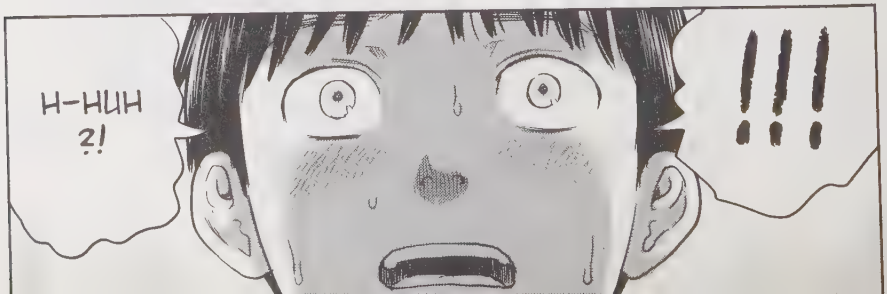

UH... UM...
ごにょ
MUMBLE
UMMM ...
ごにょ

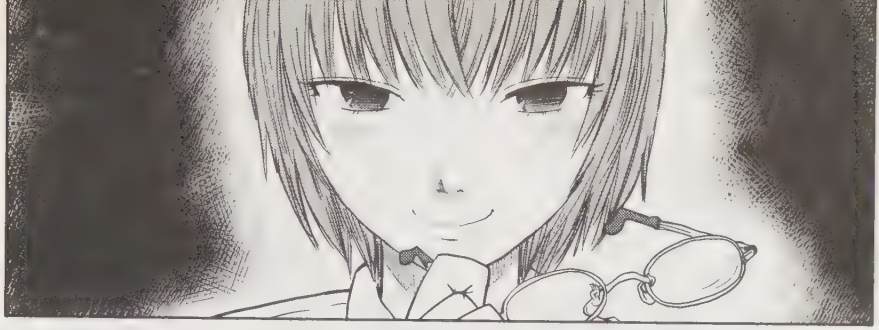

YESTER-DAY... THAT WAS TERRIBLE, WASN'T IT?
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DIDN'T CATCH COLD?

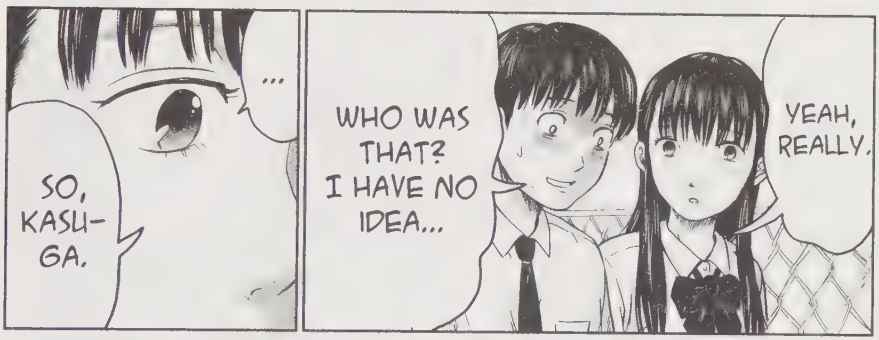

F-FRIENDS...?
BAIBUMP
BAIBUMP
UM...
WELL...

WHY WOULD SHE ASK THAT?
SAEKI... WHA?
UM...
BAIBUMP
WHAT... DOES SHE MEAN?
BAIBUMP
WH-WHY?

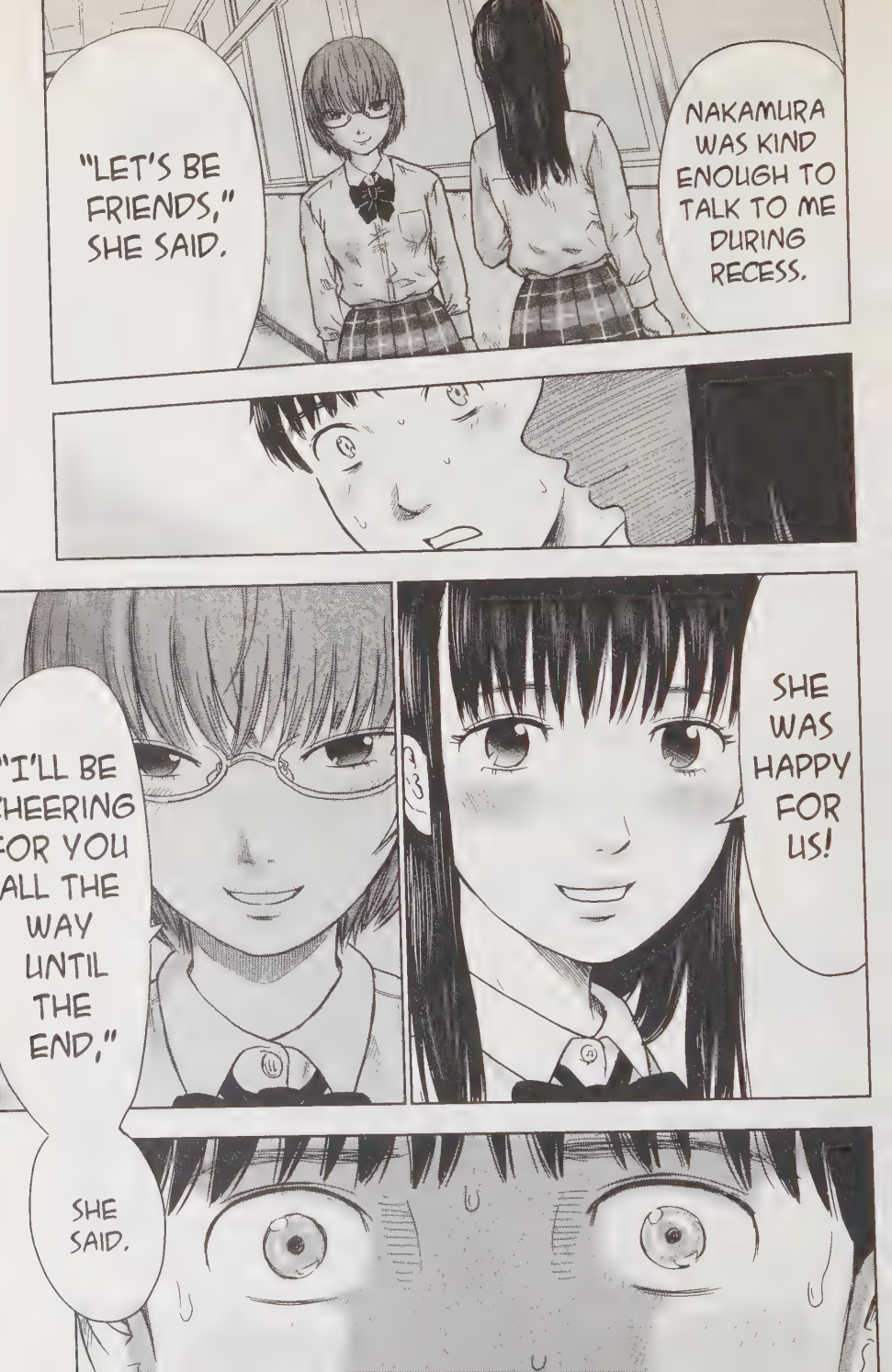

NAKAMURA, SHE TOLD ME.
SHE SAID THAT YOU WERE FRIENDS.

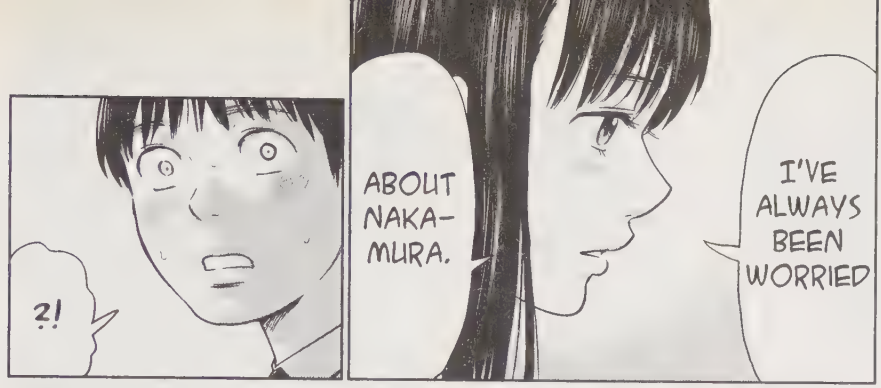

!!!
H-HUH?!

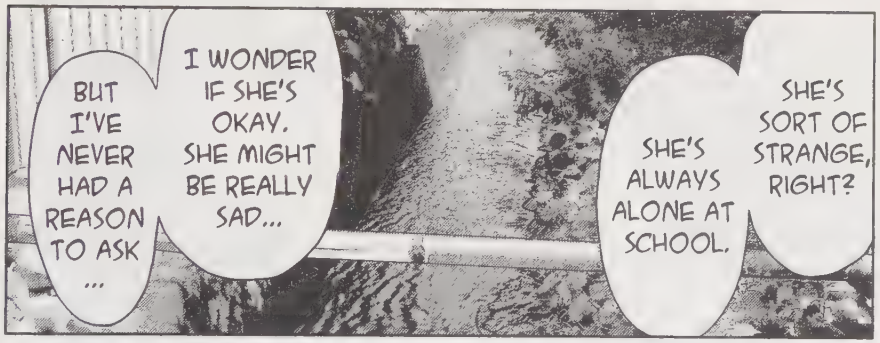


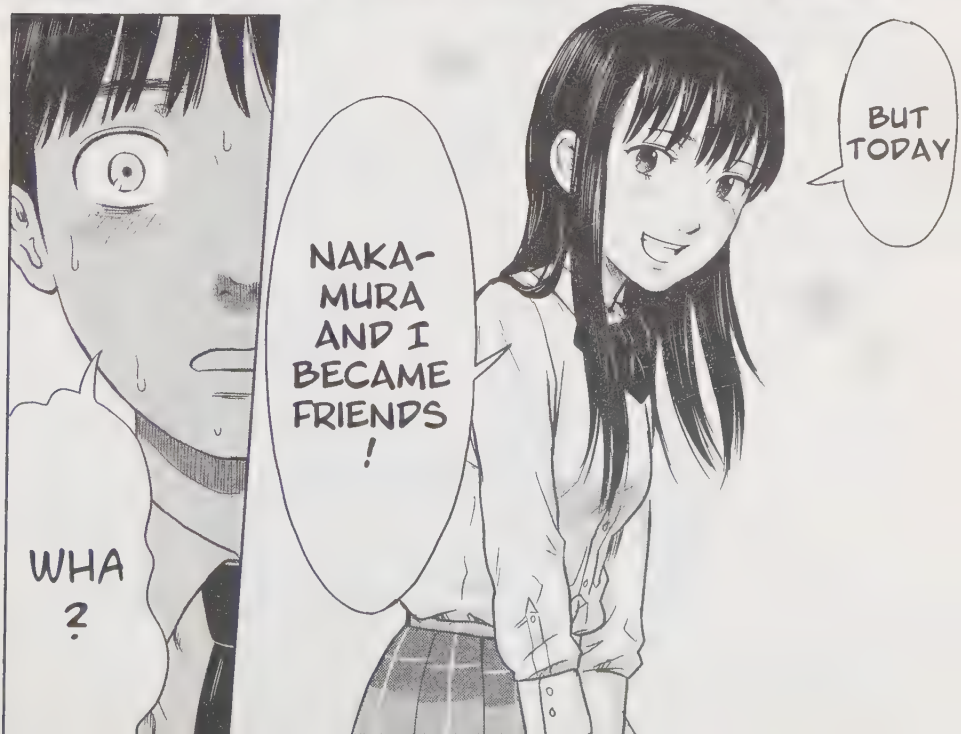

...
SO, KASU-GA.
WHO WAS THAT? I HAVE NO IDEA...
YEAH, REALLY.

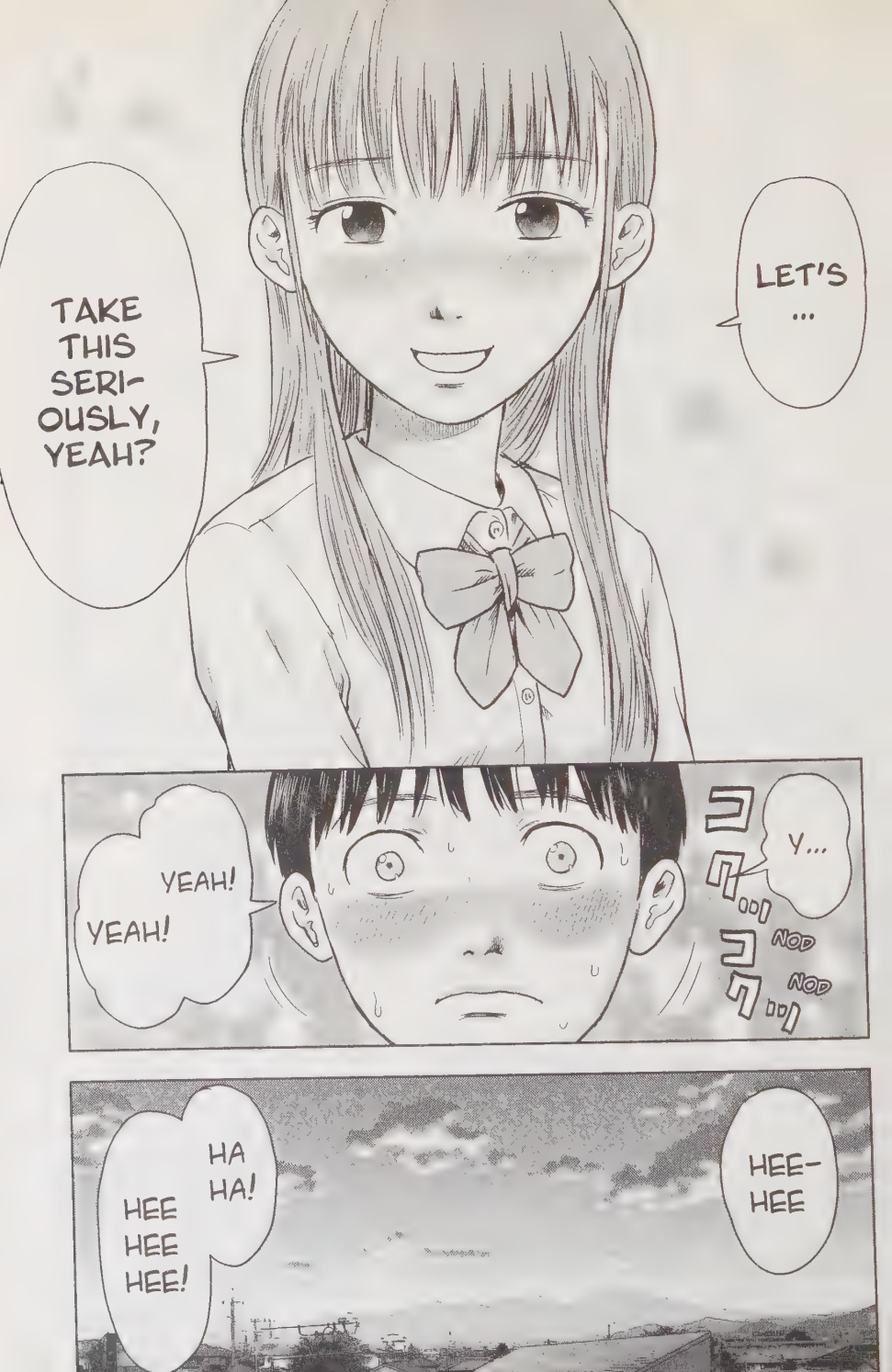
Are you and Naka-mura ...
friends?
HUH ?!

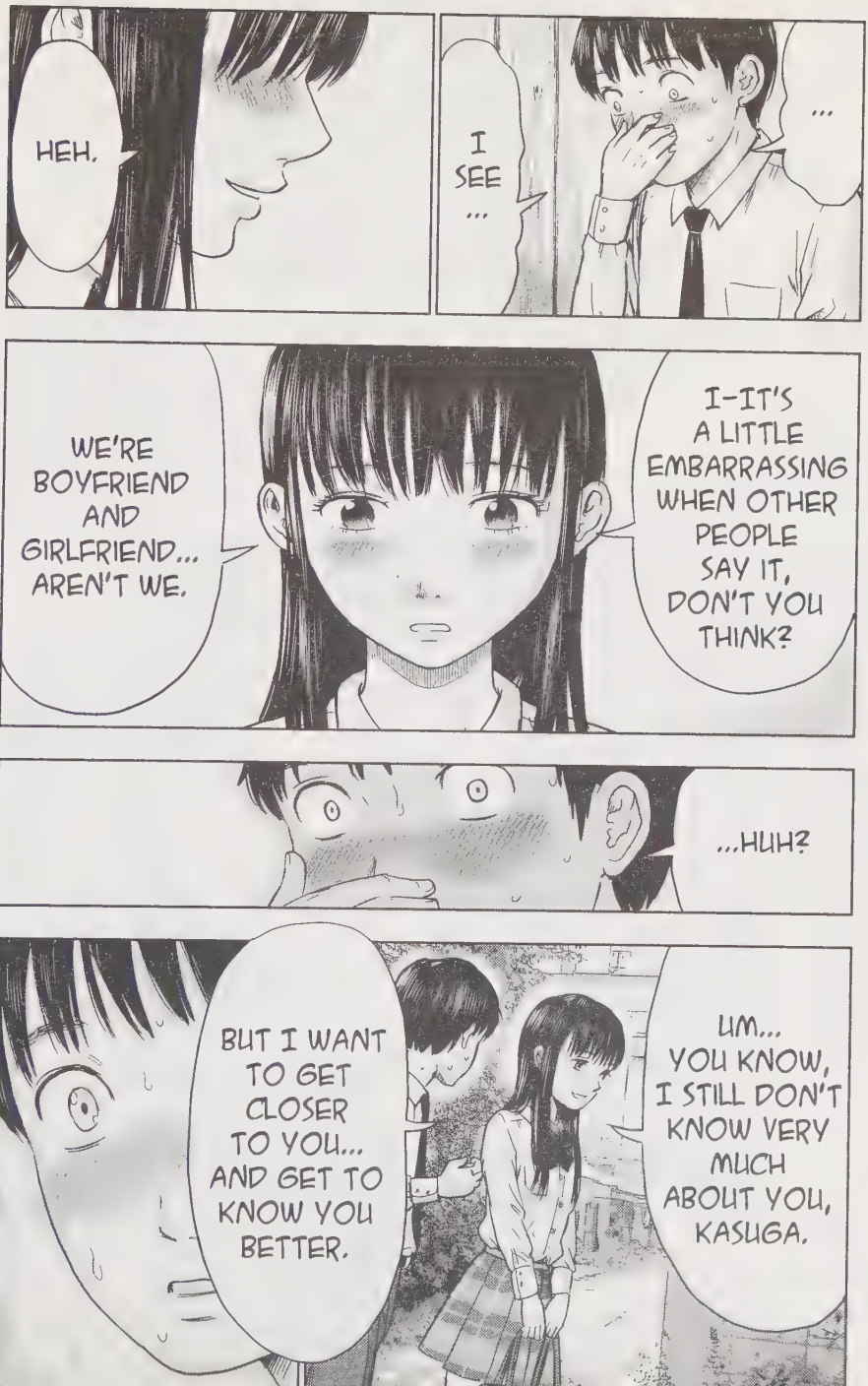

"LET'S BE FRIENDS," SHE SAID.
NAKAMURA WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TALK TO ME DURING RECESS.
"I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU ALL THE WAY UNTIL THE END,"
SHE SAID.
SHE WAS HAPPY FOR US!


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WORRIED
ABOUT NAKA-MURA.
?!

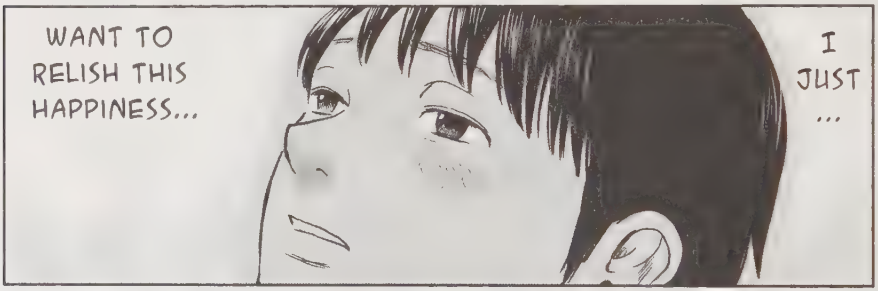

SHE'S SORT OF STRANGE, RIGHT?
SHE'S ALWAYS ALONE AT SCHOOL.
I WONDER IF SHE'S OKAY. SHE MIGHT BE REALLY SAD...
BUT I'VE NEVER HAD A REASON TO ASK ...

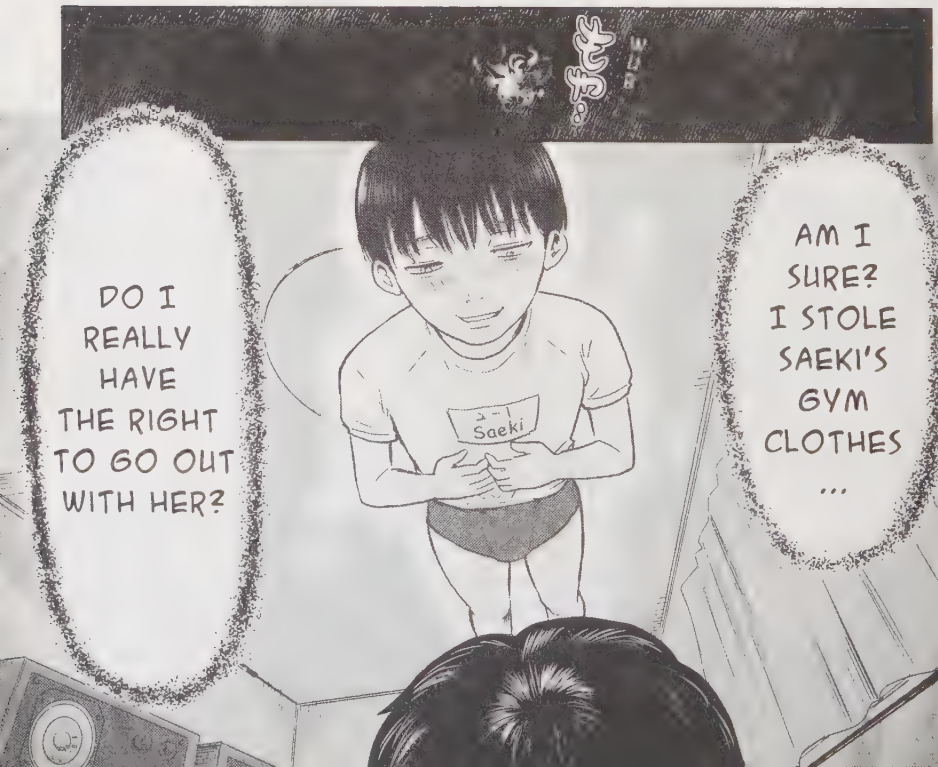

BUT TODAY
NAKA-MURA AND I BECAME FRIENDS!
WHA?


LET'S ...
TAKE THIS SERI-OUSLY, YEAH?
Y...
コク...
NOD
コク...
NOD
YEAH!
YEAH!
HEE-HEE
HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE!

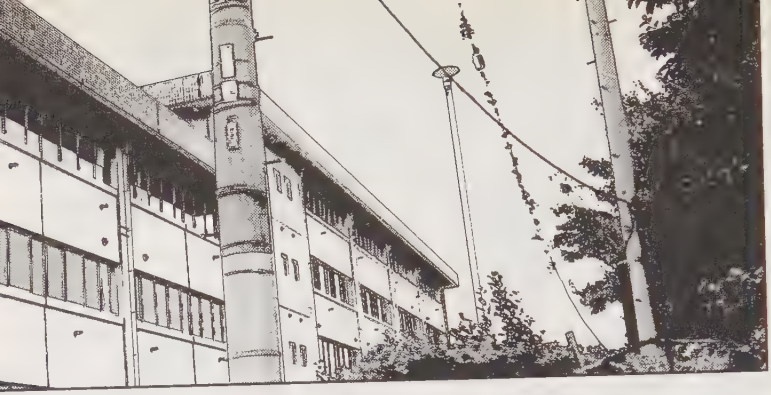

HEH.
I SEE...
...
I-IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING WHEN OTHER PEOPLE SAY IT, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE'RE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND... AREN'T WE.
...HUH?
UM... YOU KNOW, I STILL DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT YOU, KASUGA.
BUT I WANT TO GET CLOSER TO YOU... AND GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

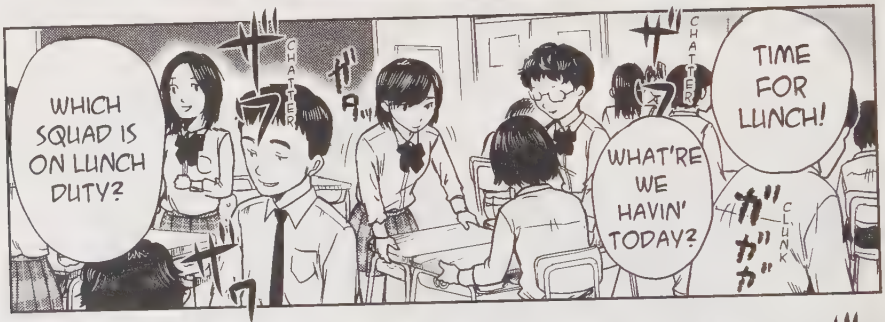
Nakamura turned out to be a good person!
ぼろっ
Who cares! Who cares!
Oh, who cares!

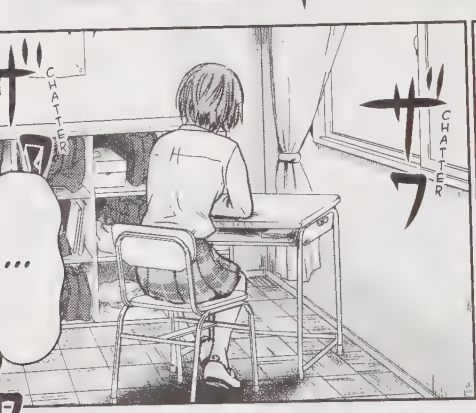

WANT TO RELISH THIS HAPPINESS...
I JUST ...

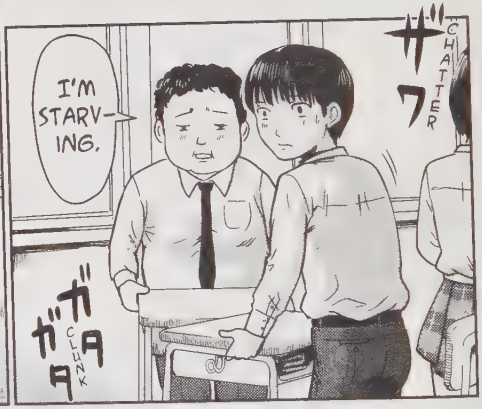

ぶるぶる
DO I REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO GO OUT WITH HER?
AM I SURE? I STOLE SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES ...
Saeki

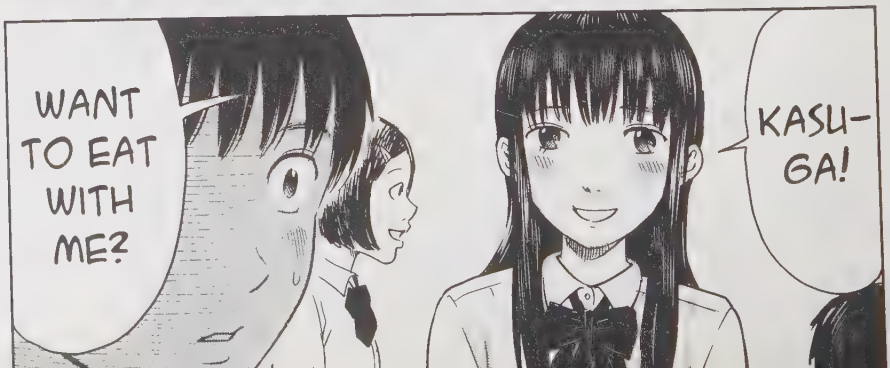
TEE HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE
MPHEE HEE HEE HEE
LET'S TAKE THIS SERI-OUSLY ...
...
WHEW ...
HAVE YOU REALLY GIVEN US YOUR BLESSING?
NAKA-MURA...




WHICH SQUAD IS ON LUNCH DUTY?
CHATTER
WHAT'RE WE HAVIN' TODAY?
CHATTER
TIME FOR LUNCH!
CLUNK

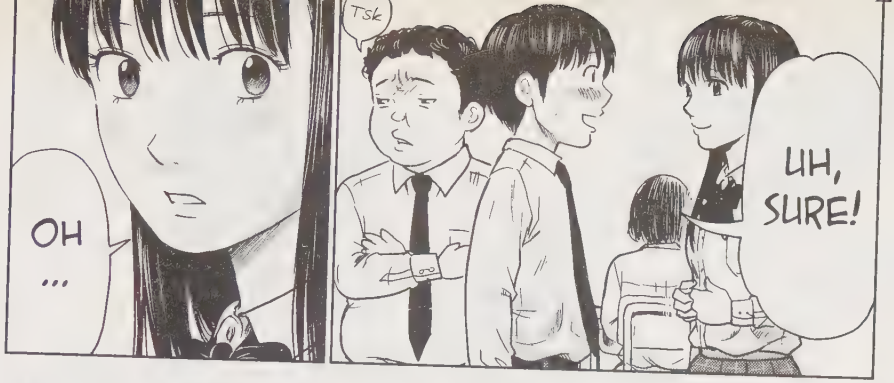

...
CHATTER
CHATTER

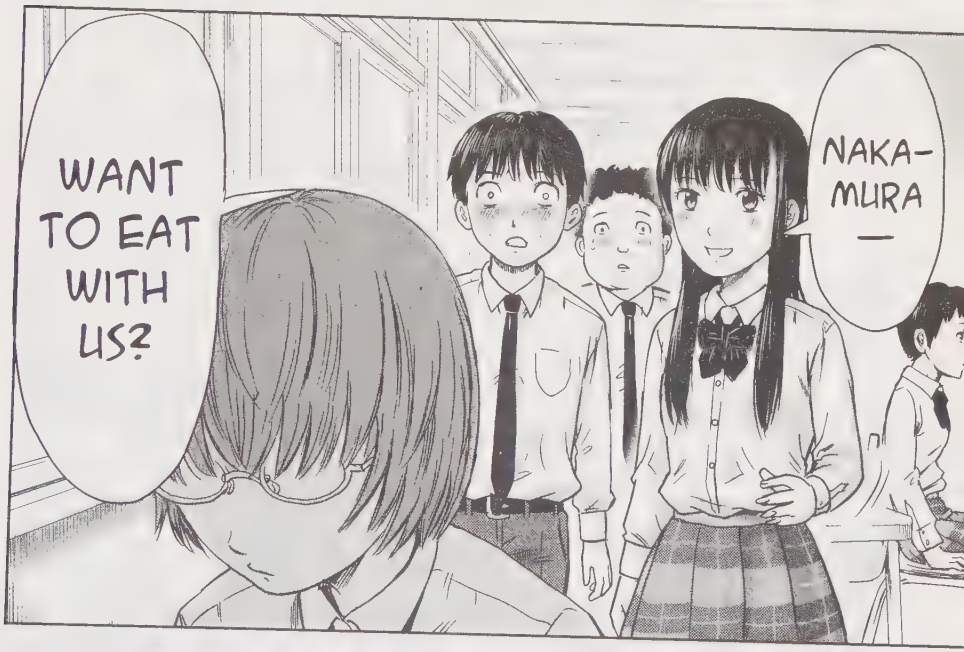

I'M STARV-ING.
CLUNK
CHATTER

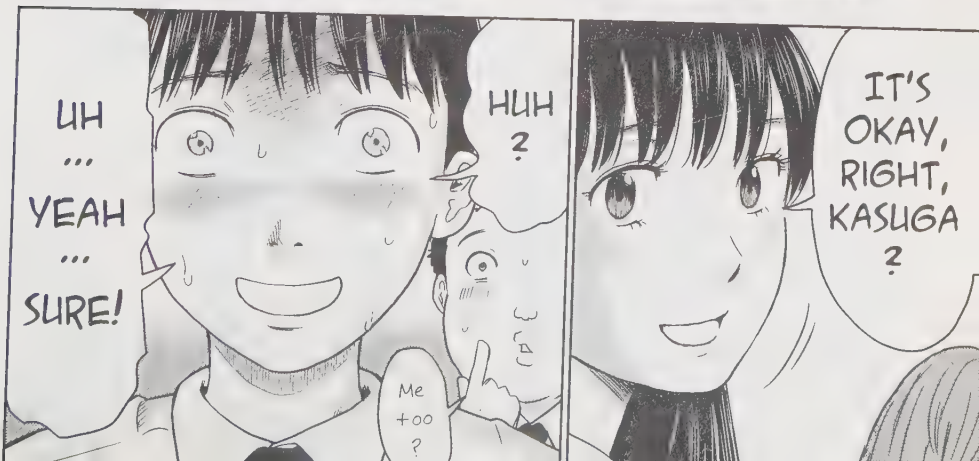

WANT TO EAT WITH ME?
KASU-GA!

WHUFF
NO... I'LL CHANGE!
I'LL BE REBORN AS A PERSON WORTHY OF HER!
FOR HER SAKE...
FOR HER, A TRUE ANGEL...
畜人ヤプー
沼正三
筒井康隆
J・K・ユイスマンス
M・フーコー

...
SURE.
C'MON!
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
IS SAEKI BEING SERIOUS?
NANAKO, WHY?
BEATS ME...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

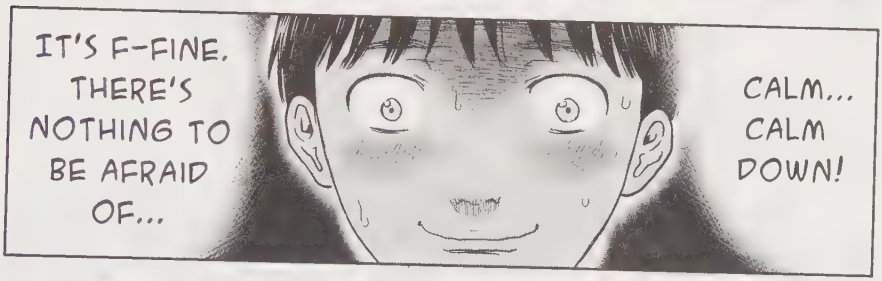

OH ...
TSK
UH, SURE!

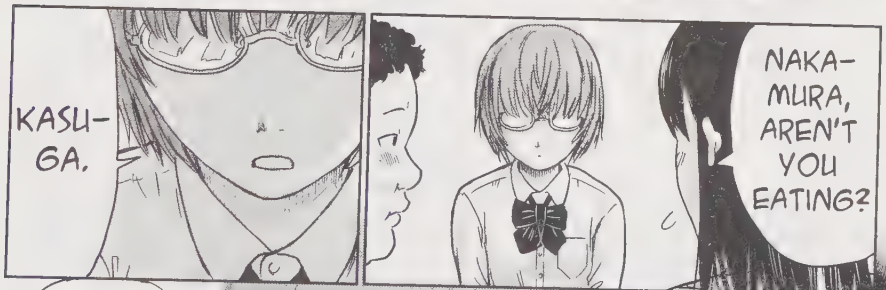

WANT TO EAT WITH US?
NAKA-MURA —

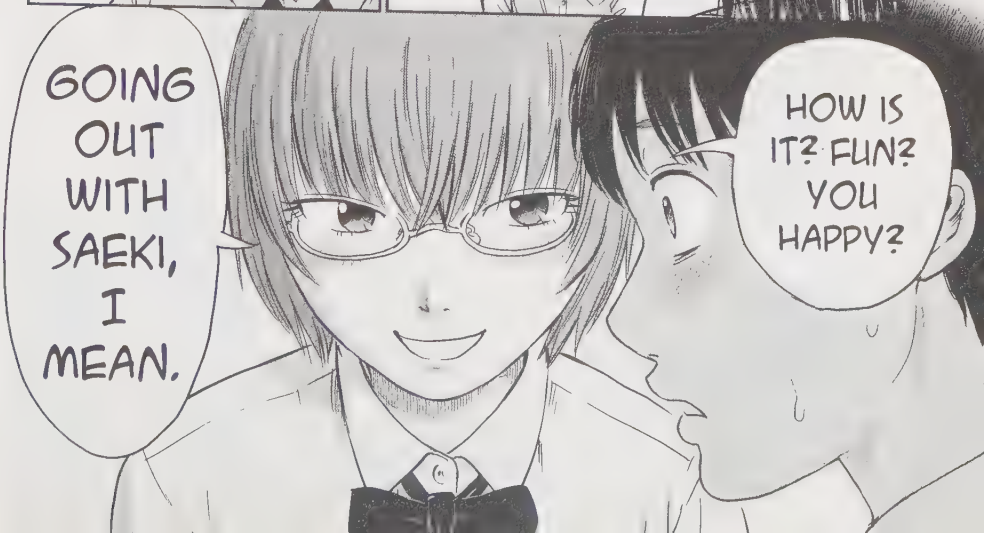

UH ... YEAH ... SURE!
HUH?
Me too?
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT, KASUGA?

UH.
YEAH.
...
I MEAN, DO YOU REALLY LIKE KASUGA?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAEKI?
I... I DO.
... YEAH.
SO...
HOW ABOUT THAT.

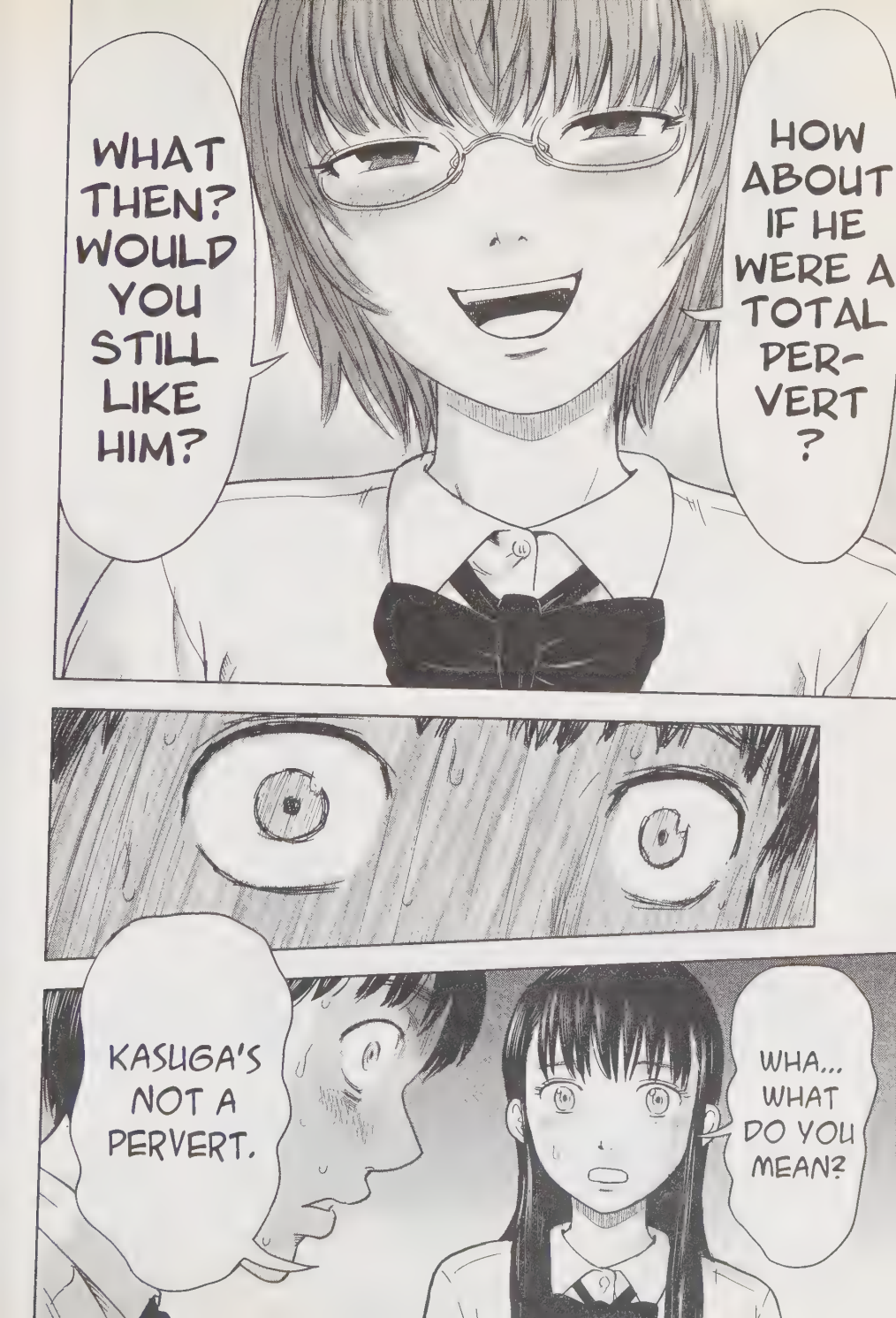
WHISPER
UH... YEAH!
THIS IS TASTY, HUH?
WHISPER


IT'S F-FINE. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
CALM... CALM DOWN!


KASU-GA.
NAKA-MURA, AREN'T YOU EATING?

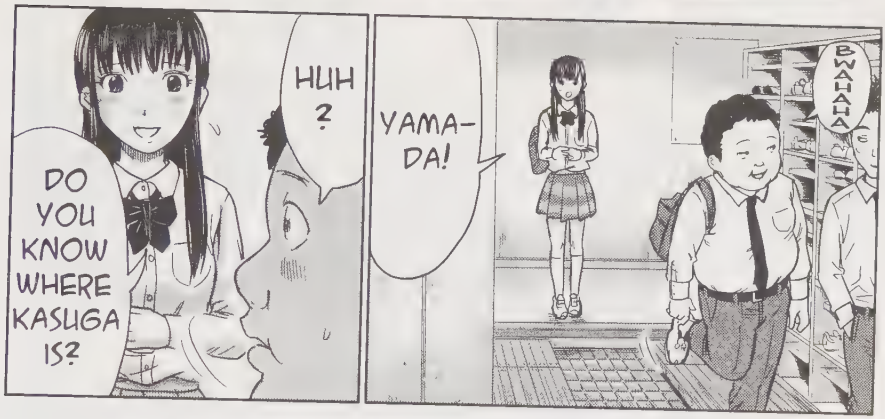

GOING OUT WITH SAEKI, I MEAN.
HOW IS IT? FUN? YOU HAPPY?

!
KRUMP
JUST KIDDING.
HEH.
come to the library after school.
WELL, OKAY ...
...


HOW ABOUT IF HE WERE A TOTAL PER-VERT ?
WHAT THEN? WOULD YOU STILL LIKE HIM?
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KASUGA'S NOT A PERVERT.

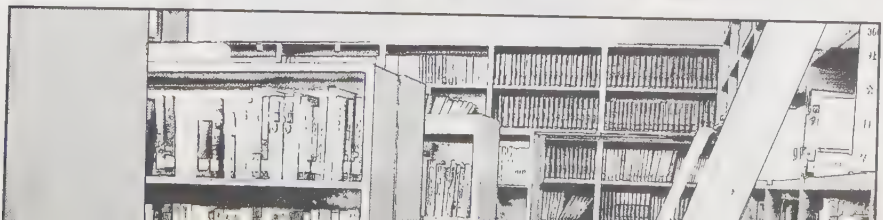
...
WHAT?
KA-SUGA ...
WANT TO KNOW WHAT SAEKI
REALLY THINKS OF YOU?
カチャ
KLIK

キーンコーンカーンコーン

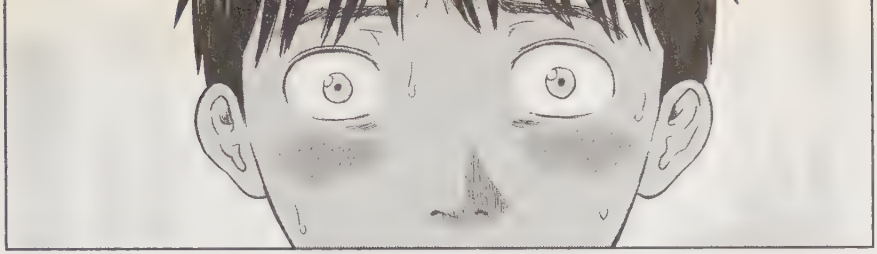

DO YOU KNOW WHERE KASUGA IS?
HUH?
YAMA-DA!
BWAHAHA

COULDN'T TELL YA.
KASUGA? BEATS ME.

WE SAID WE WERE GOING TO WALK HOME TOGETHER.
OKAY.



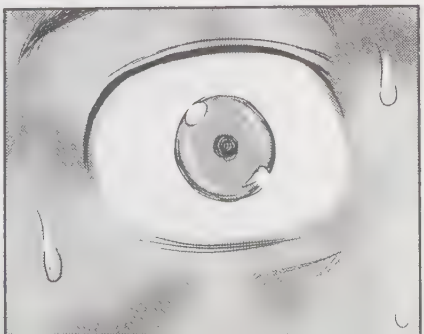
STOP IT!
STO—
SHE SAID LET'S TAKE IT SERI-OUSLY!
WHY ARE YOU... JUST LEAVE US ALONE!
IF YOU REALLY LIKE HER, OU SHOULD SEE HER POPPED OPEN AND SEE IT ALL.
"SERI-OUSLY?" BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW!



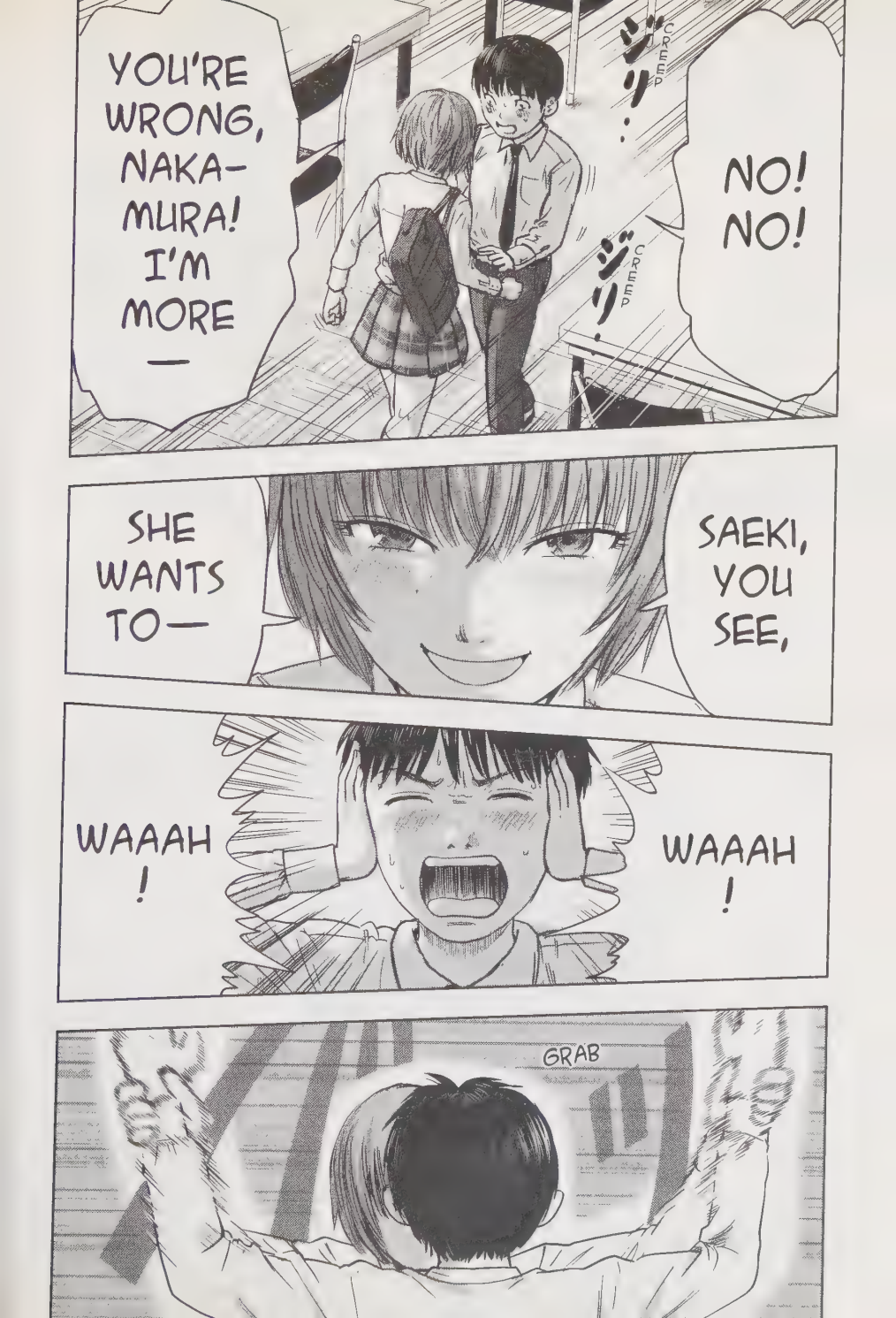
SEE, I MADE FRIENDS WITH HER.
MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF IT.

ALL THE NASTY SECRETS SHE WON'T SHARE WITH YOU,
I'LL PULL OUT OF HER AND TELL YOU ONE BY ONE.

YOU SEE,
SAEKI, SHE—



She said she wants to
have sex with you, Kasuga.


YOU'RE WRONG, NAKA-MURA! I'M MORE —
ジリ…
CREEP
ジリ
CREEP
NO! NO!
SHE WANTS TO—
SAEKI, YOU SEE,
WAAAH!
WAAAH!
GRAB

Chapter 10: Spleen and Ideal

Afterword

Chapter 9

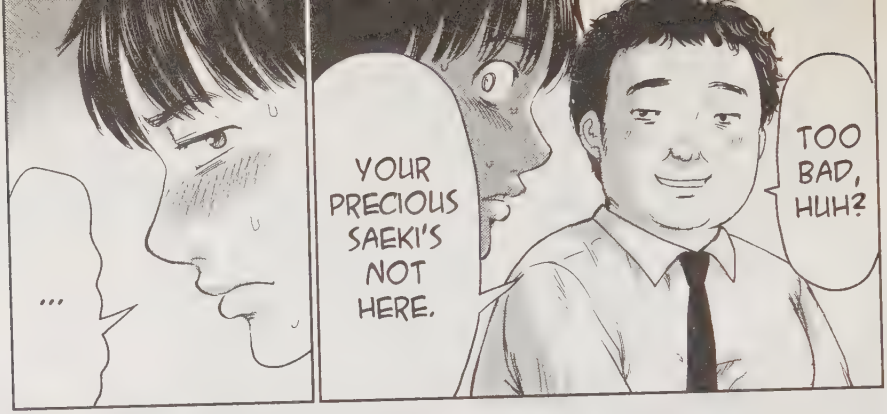
I casually hid a character from Yoneko Takamoto's manga *Koishinobu* (also serialized in *Monthly Shonen Magazine*) in this chapter. It's payback for her constantly parodying *The Flowers of Evil*. If you're interested, you should definitely check out *Koishinobu* volume 1!

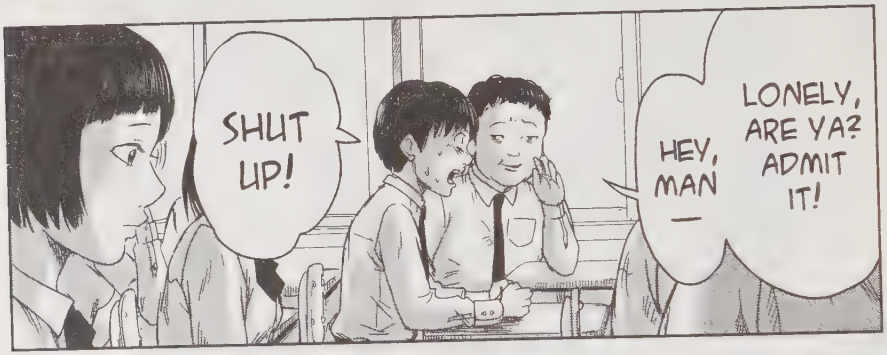
Chapter 10

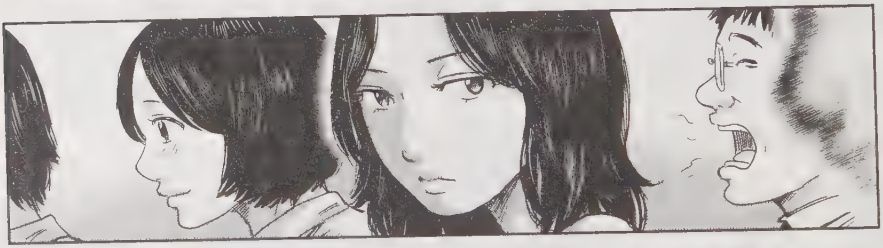
The frontispiece of this chapter is a parody of Francisco Goya's painting "The Naked Maja." There are two versions of this painting: one with a clothed Maja, and one where she is nude. In middle school it shocked me: "They can do that?" Goya's another artist I like.

KINO-SHITA.
HERE.
PAY MORE ATTEN-TION!
SAEKI, YOU SEE, SAID
SHE WANTS TO HAVE SEX WITH YOU.
HAVE SEX WITH YOU.
HAVE SEX WITH YOU.

EGUCHI.
HERE.
UEDA.
HERE.
ONO.
HERE.
KASUGA.
KASUGA!
Here!
Here!
Ha
—


...
YOUR PRECIOUS SAEKI'S NOT HERE.
TOO BAD, HUH?

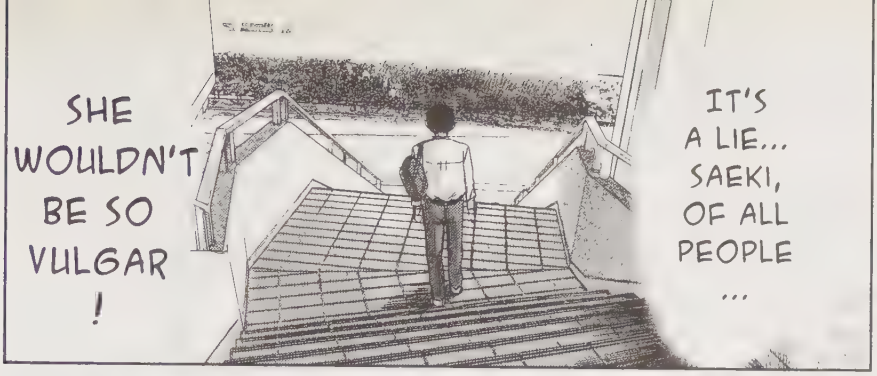

SHUT UP!
HEY, MAN —
LONELY, ARE YA? ADMIT IT!



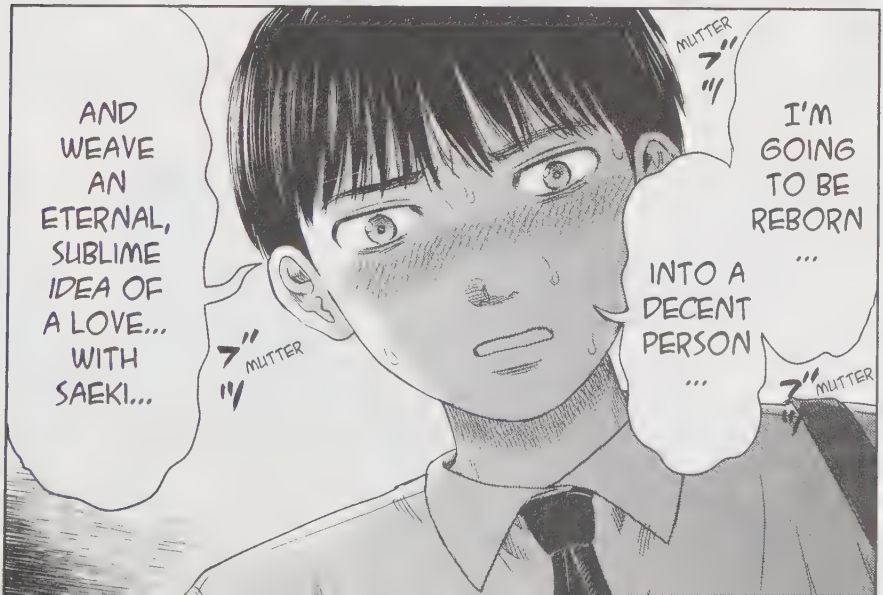
キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン

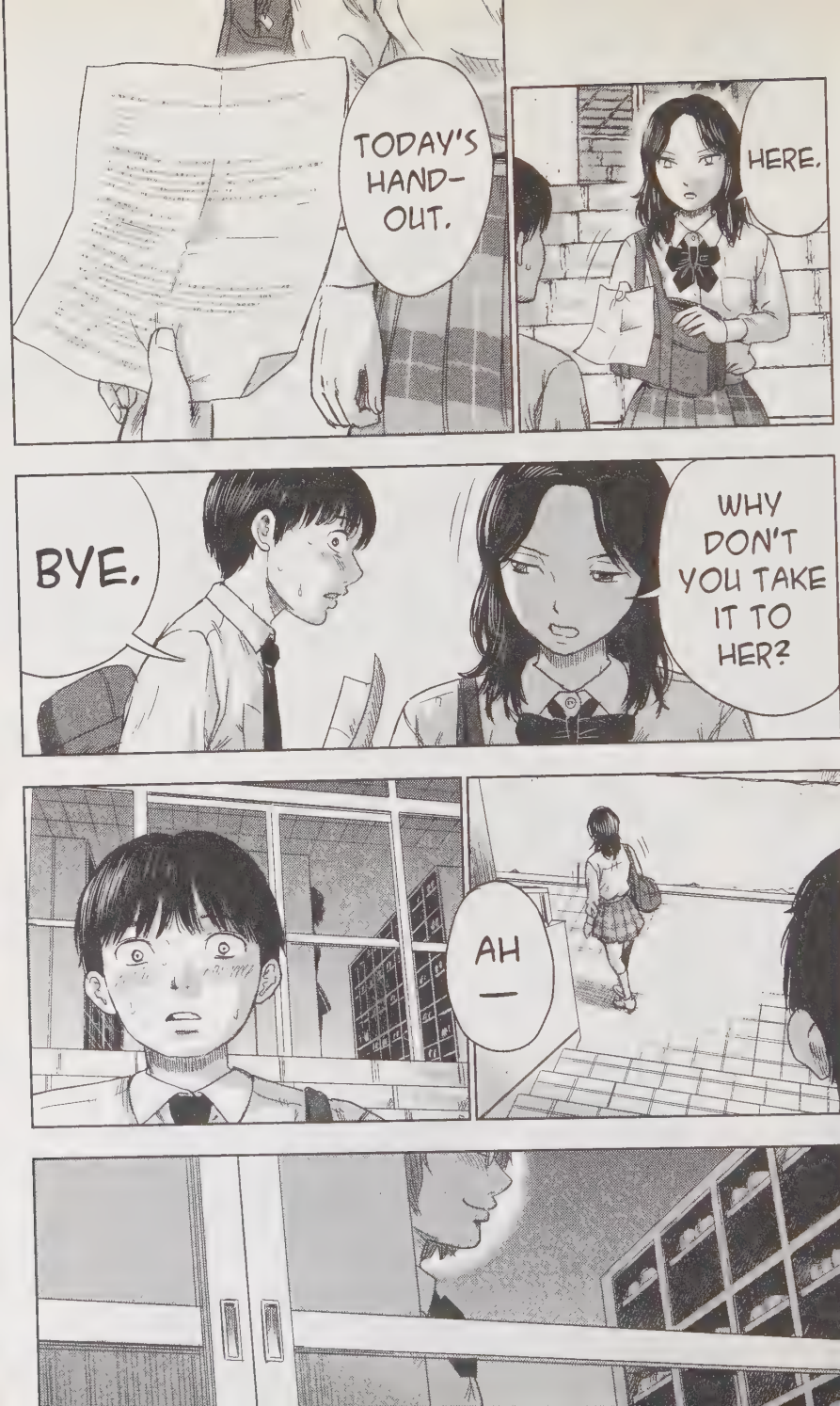
!
KLUNK
...
SAEKI... AH.
EVIDENTLY SHE'S HOME SICK WITH A COLD TODAY.
...
SHI MO- YA- MA.
HERE.

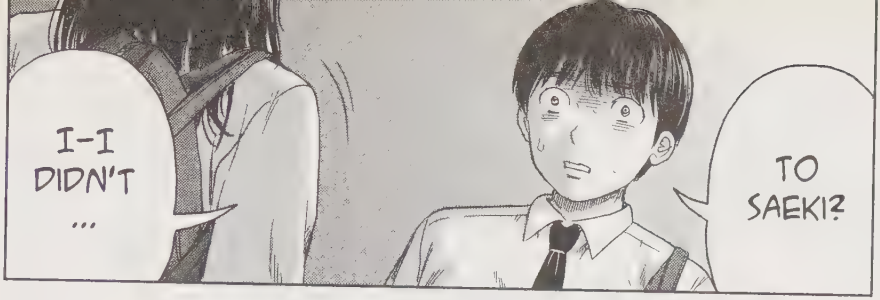
KA-SUGA.
KINO-SHITA? WHAT IS IT?
...
LISTEN, KASUGA.
WHAT'D YOU DO TO NANAKO?
HUH?

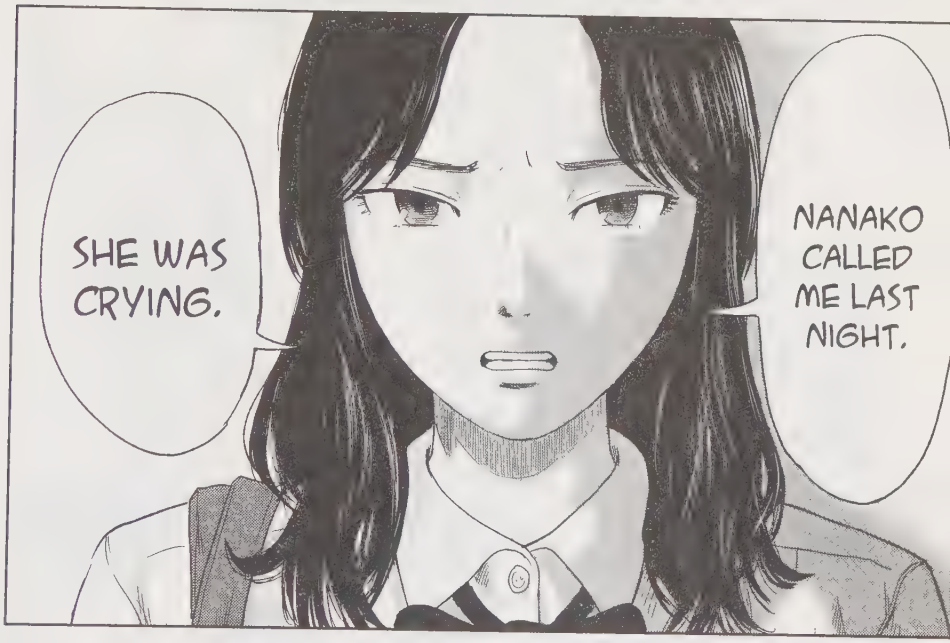

SHE WOULDN'T BE SO VULGAR !
IT'S A LIE... SAEKI, OF ALL PEOPLE ...

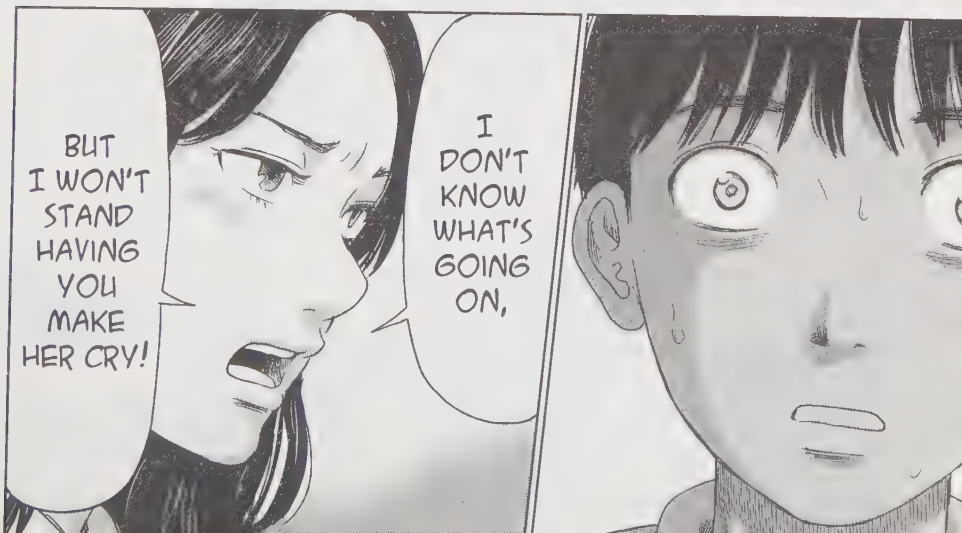
I WON'T LET HER!
NAKA-MURA'S LYING TO TRY TO FOOL ME.
SHE'S AN ANGEL. A VIRGIN MARY !


AND WEAVE AN ETERNAL, SUBLIME IDEA OF A LOVE... WITH SAEKI...
MUTTER
I'M GOING TO BE REBORN ...
INTO A DECENT PERSON ...
MUTTER
MUTTER

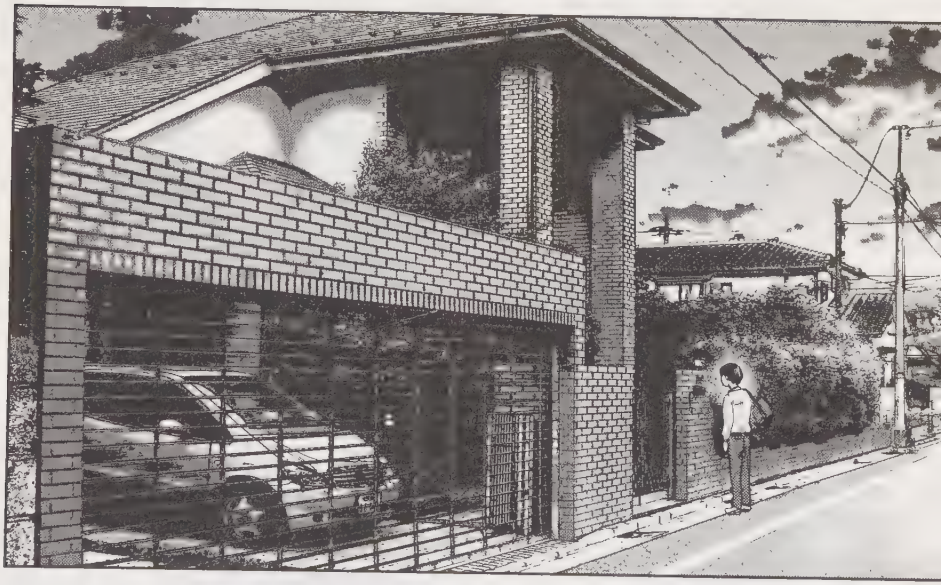

TODAY'S HAND-OUT.
HERE.
BYE.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT TO HER?
AH —

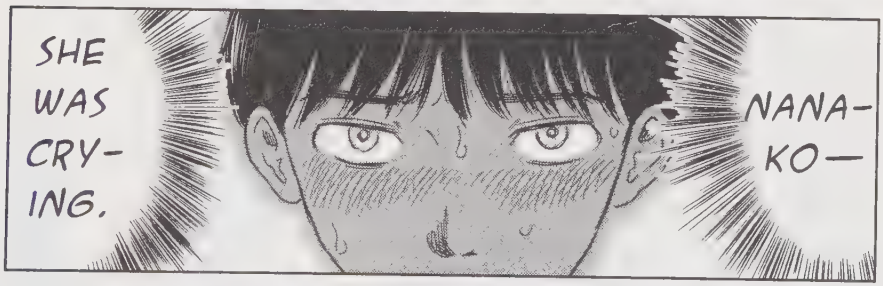

I-I DIDN'T ...
TO SAEKI?

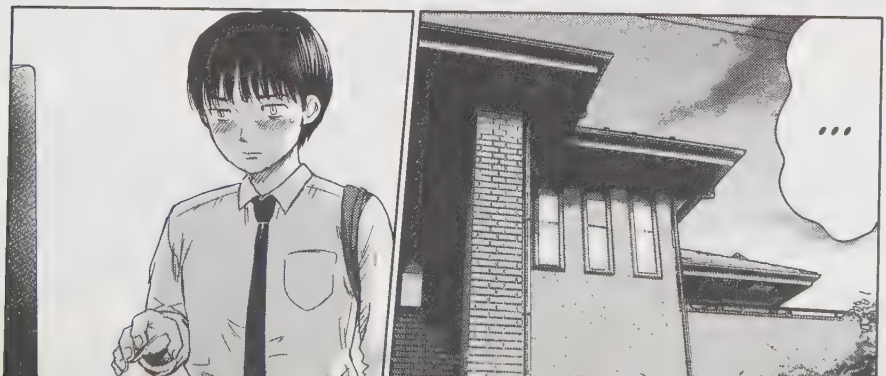

SHE WAS CRYING.
NANAKO CALLED ME LAST NIGHT.


BUT I WON'T STAND HAVING YOU MAKE HER CRY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,

I ALWAYS SAW THIS DOORBELL ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE BOOK-STORE
AND USED TO THINK I'D NEVER EVER COME TO PUSH IT.
ドキ
BABUMP
HI, I'M KASUGA.
M-MY NAME IS KASUGA.
HHFF
HAAAH




SHE WAS CRY-ING.
NANA-KO—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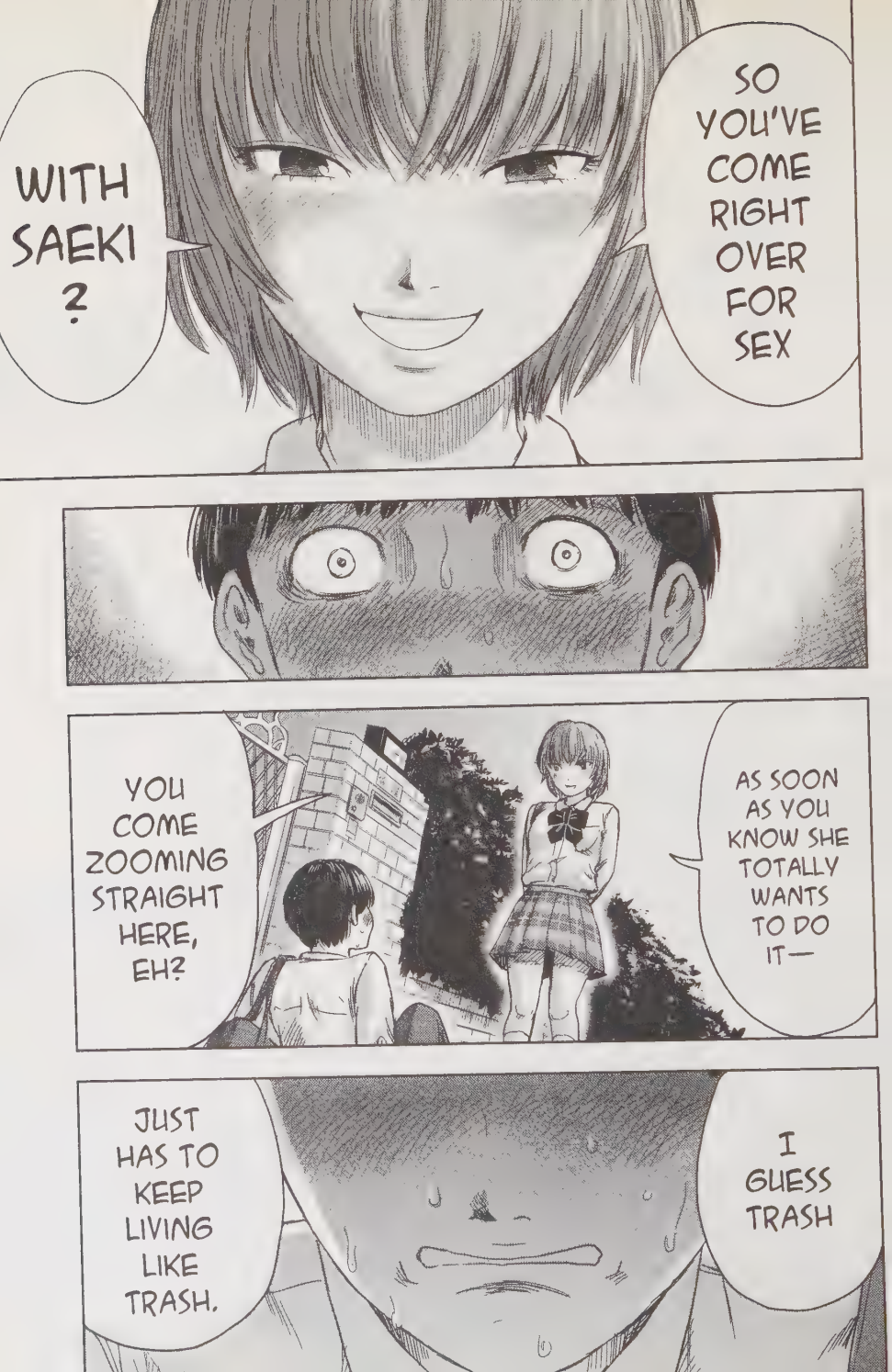
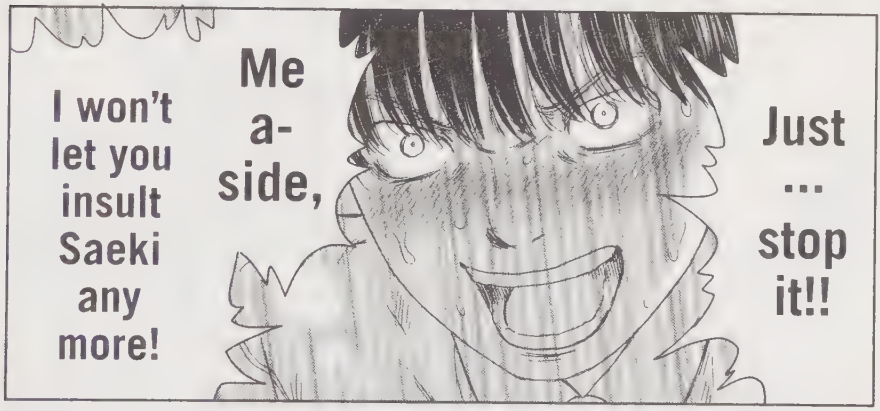
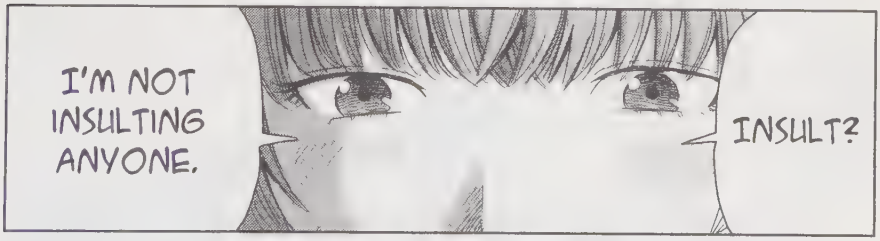

SO YOU'VE COME RIGHT OVER FOR SEX
WITH SAEKI?
AS SOON AS YOU KNOW SHE TOTALLY WANTS TO DO IT—
YOU COME ZOOMING STRAIGHT HERE, EH?
I GUESS TRASH
JUST HAS TO KEEP LIVING LIKE TRASH.

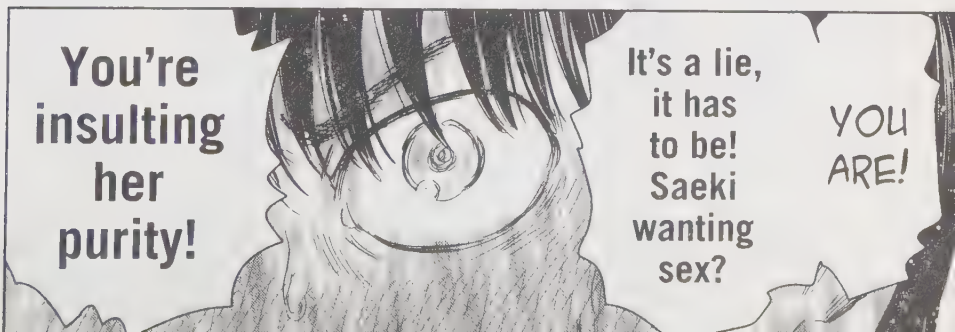
KA-
SUGA.
HA-
AH-
N-
Naka-
mura
?!
Why
are you
he—
Huff
Huff

SAEKI WANTS SEX SO BADLY SHE CAN'T STAND IT.
IT'S TRUE.
NUH —!
...
WOW, YOU'RE THE KING OF PERVS.
PLAIN OLD SEX WOULD BE NO FUN FOR YOU?
IS THAT AN INSULT?

NAKA-
MURA!
WHAT
?


I won't let you insult Saeki any more!
Me a-side,
Just ... stop it!!


I'M NOT INSULTING ANYONE.
INSULT?

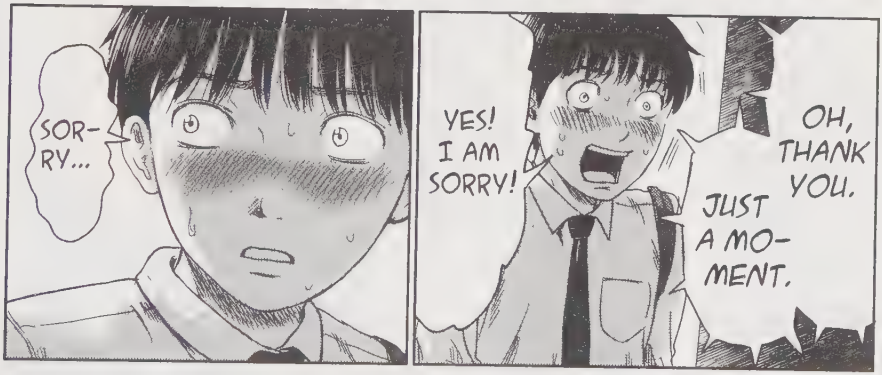

You're insulting her purity!
It's a lie, it has to be! Saeki wanting sex?
YOU ARE!

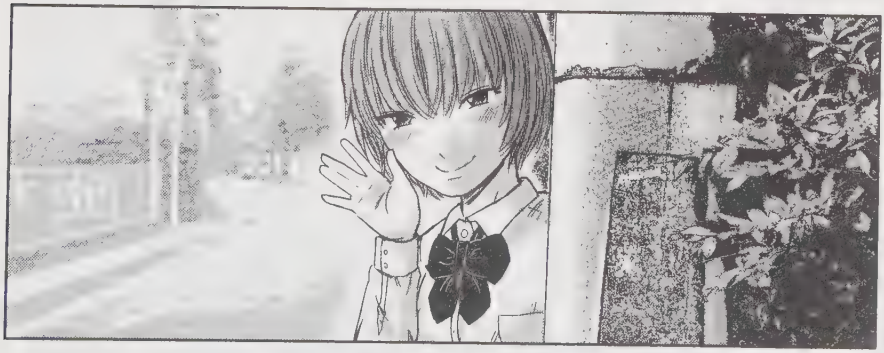
DING DONGG
WHA
...!!
DASH
BZZT
YES, WHO'S THERE?
AH—
HAH—
BWUH—
JERK

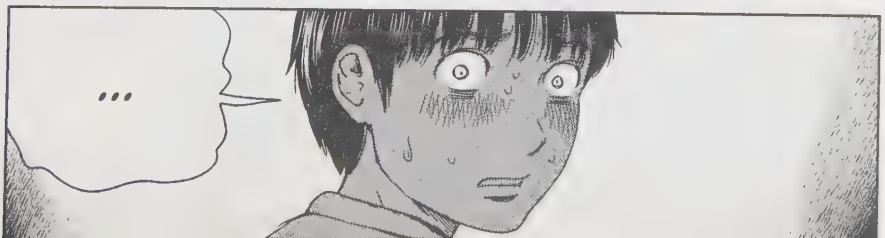
IT'S PLAIN AS DAY TO ME... AAAALL THE MUCK UNDER YOUR SKIN.
YANK
きゅっ
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR.
SO GOOD LUCK.

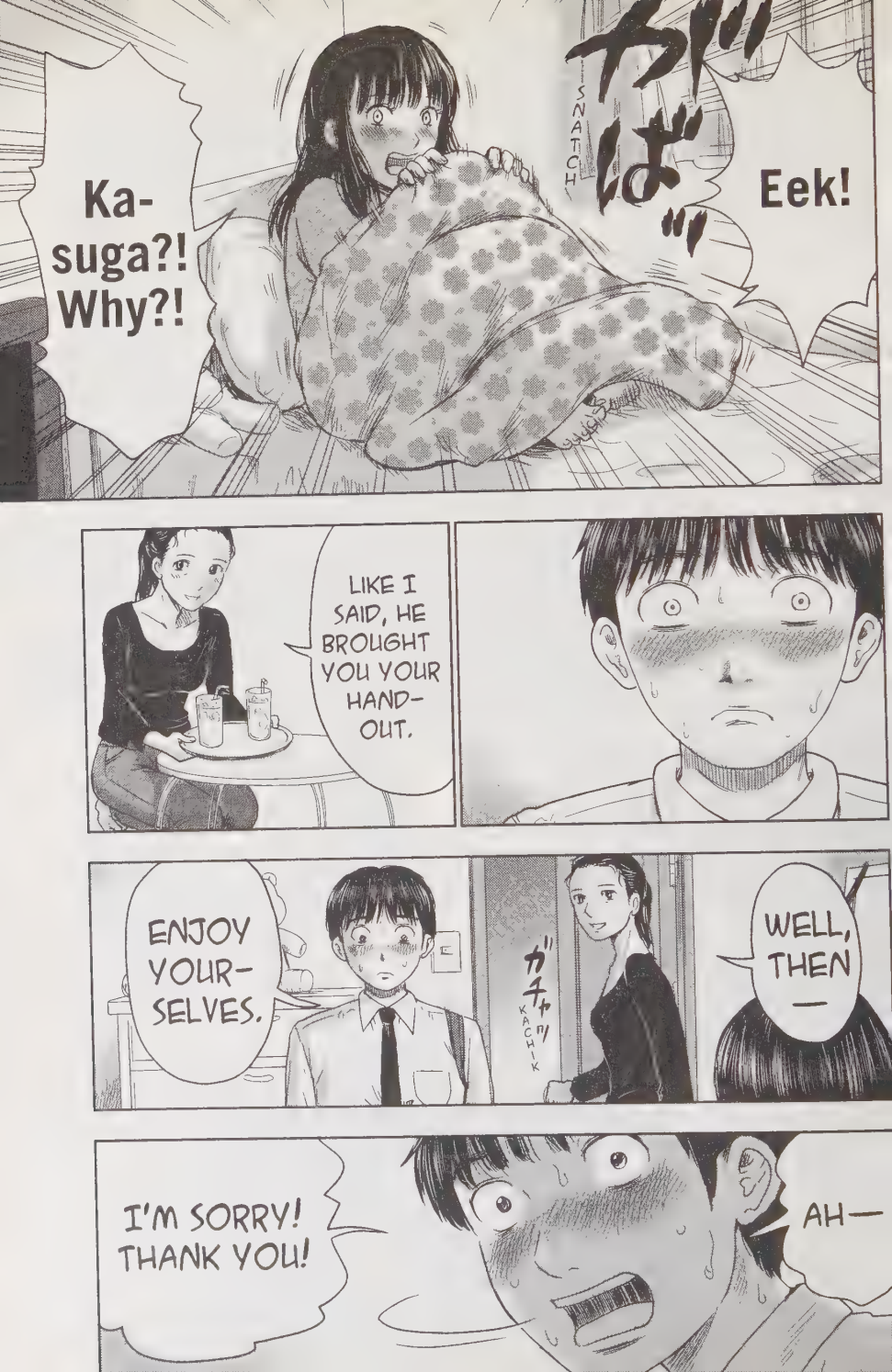
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO COME OUT OF YOUR WAY.
OH MY, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?
MY NAME'S KASUGA!
N-NOT AT ALL! UM—
WHA...
AH...
トン
トン
トン

BROUGHT IT! HAND-OUT!
F- FOR S-S— NANA-KO!
AH... UH... HAND-OUT!
HEL-LO?


SOR-RY...
YES! I AM SORRY!
JUST A MO-MENT.
OH, THANK YOU.

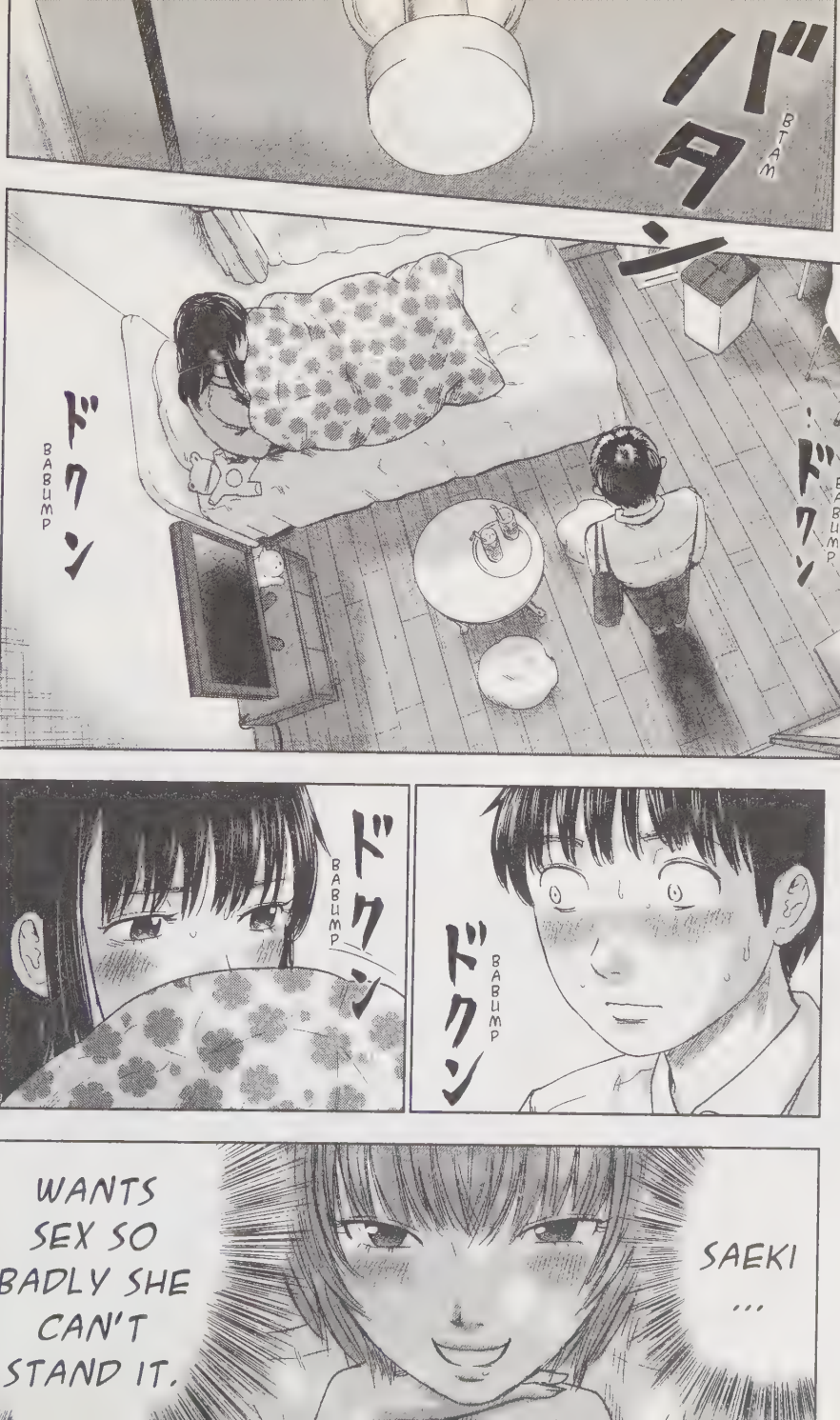



...


Ka-
suga?!
Why?!
SNATCH
Eek!
LIKE I SAID, HE BROUGHT YOU YOUR HAND-OUT.
ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.
ガチャリ
KACHIK
WELL, THEN—
I'M SORRY! THANK YOU!
AH—

NOKK
コン
コン
NOKK
NANAKO, I'M COMING IN!
ギ…
KREAK
…
YOUR FRIEND BROUGHT YOU YOUR HANDOUT.
AH—
THE FLOWERS OF

...
HOW'S YOUR COLD DOING?
UM...
...
カア
CAW
カア
CAW
...
U-UM...
I heard from Kino-shita!
Um, Saeki!


バタン
BTAM
ドクン
BABUMP
ドクン
BABUMP
ドクン
BABUMP
ドクン
BABUMP
SAEKI
...
WANTS SEX SO BADLY SHE CAN'T STAND IT.

KA-SUGA.

ぽふ…
PAT

SIT HERE.

...

ドクン…
BABUMP

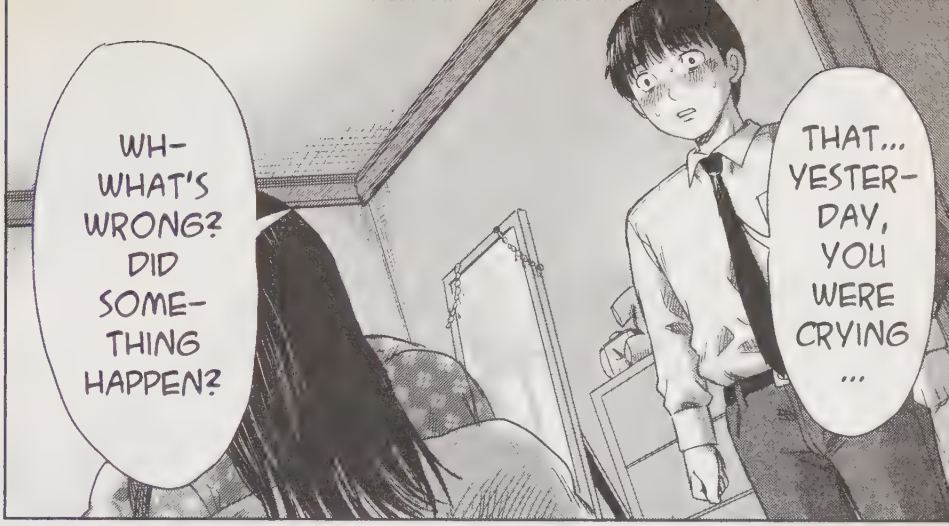
HUH?

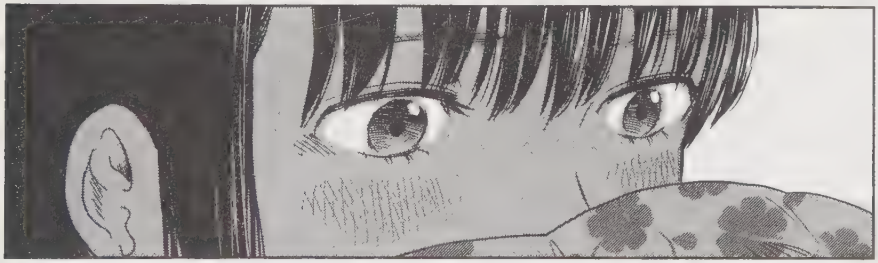
PLEASE.

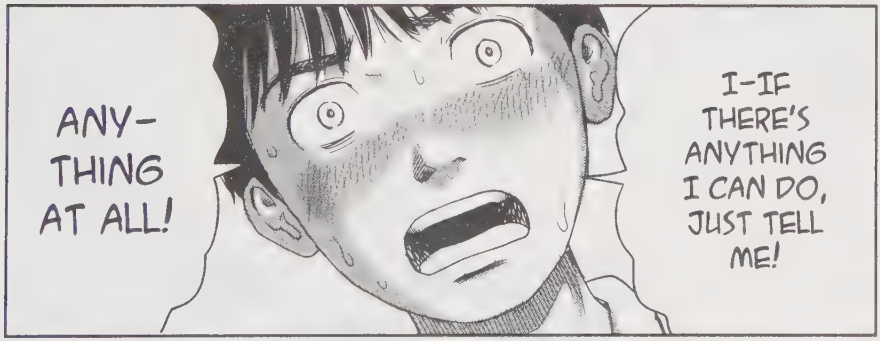
ドクン
BABUMP

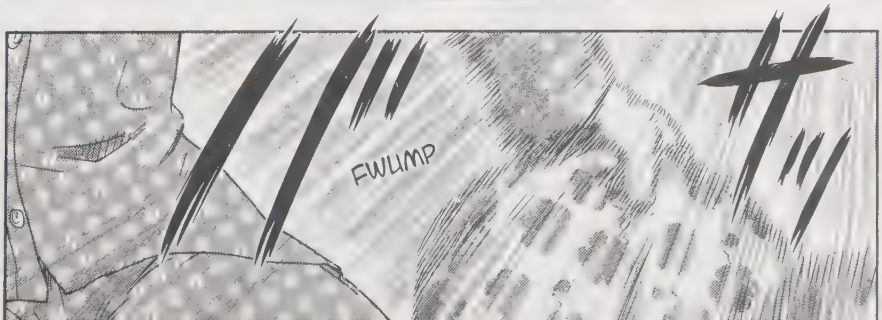
ドク

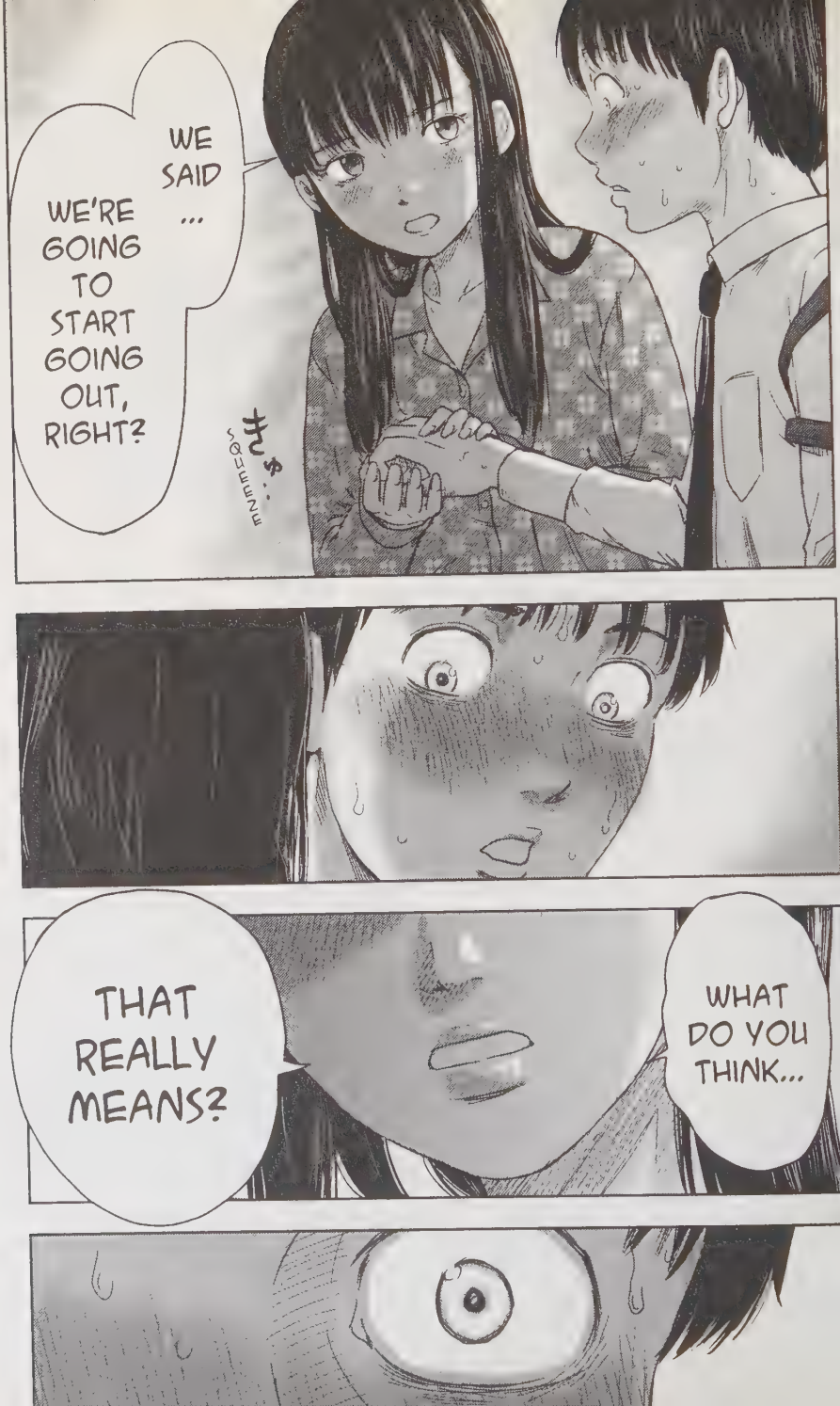
ドクン
BABUMP


THAT... YESTER-DAY, YOU WERE CRYING ...
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?




I-IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, JUST TELL ME!
ANY-THING AT ALL!


FWUMP


WE SAID ...
WE'RE GOING TO START GOING OUT, RIGHT?
きゅ…
THAT REALLY MEANS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK...

BABUMP
SQUEEK
キシ…
BABUMP
BABUMP
BABUMP
BABUMP
PUNCH

TELL ME, RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW.

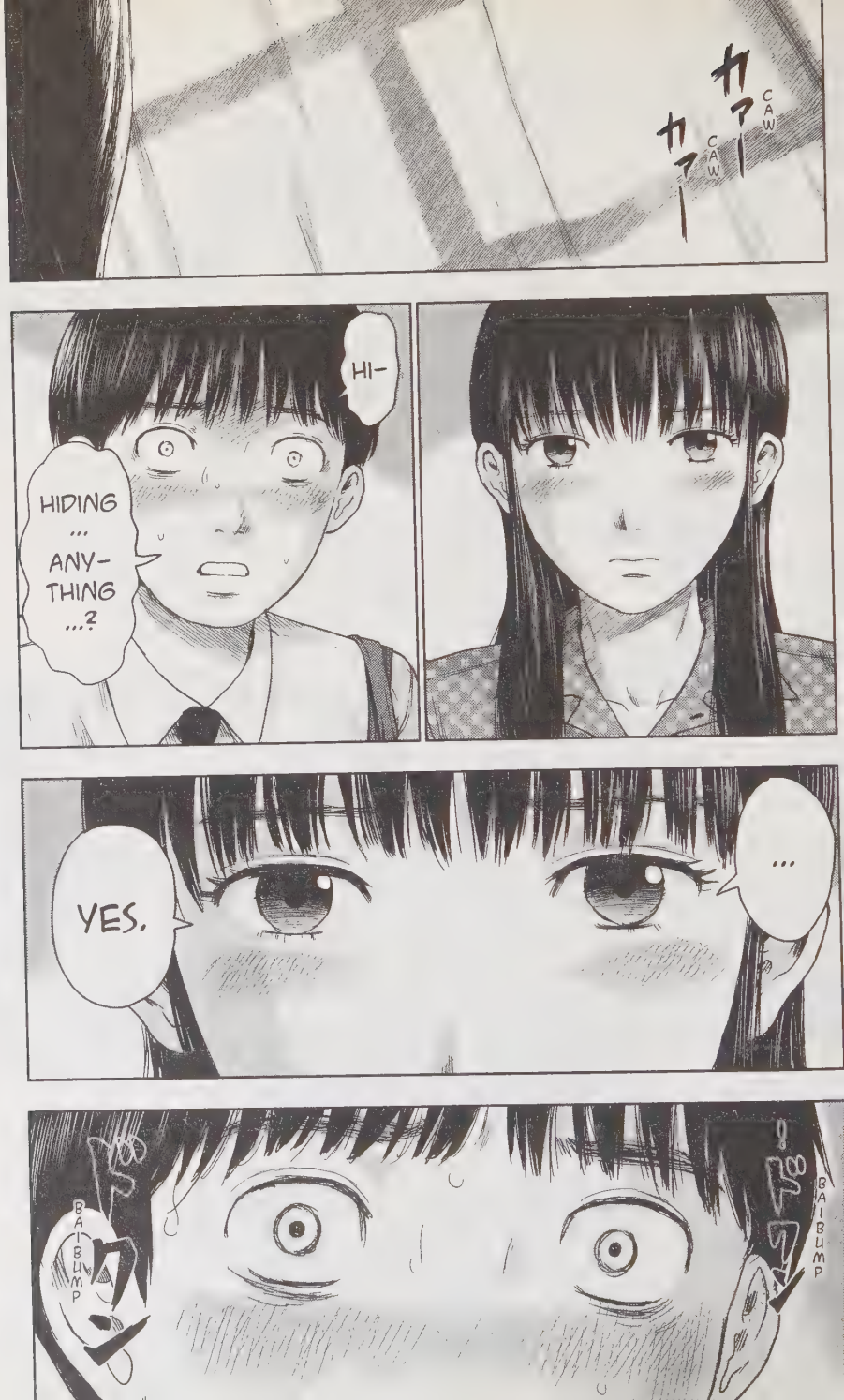
KASUGA,
IF YOU'RE HIDING ANY-THING FROM ME

Chapter 11: That Which Is Not Easily Saved

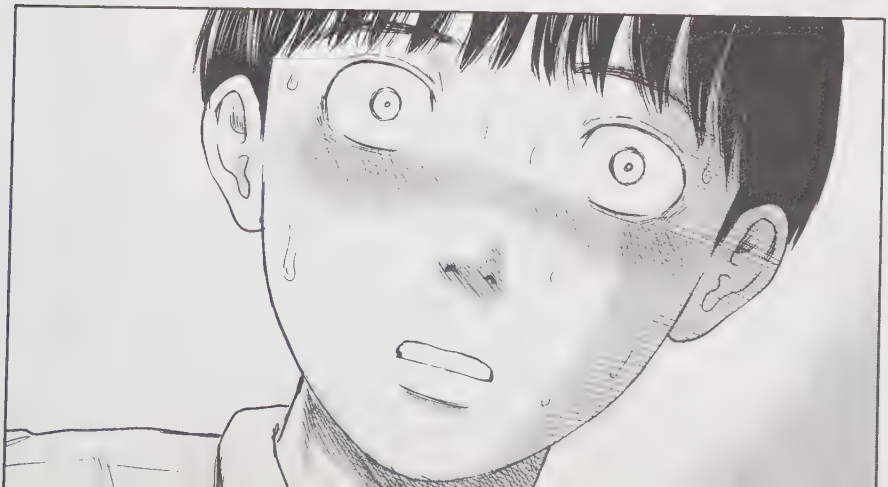
Afterword

Chapter 11

When you live in Tokyo, you realize that even in the dead of night, there are lights everywhere. I've lived here for over ten years and I'd forgotten all about it, but back in the countryside there are only a few lights.
When the sun sets and dusk covers the town, it gets so dark you can hardly see anything. With nowhere to go I'd ride my bike around the outskirts of town, and as the darkness deepened I'd feel a helpless despair. I don't want to forget the feelings I had then, as I watched the lights of distant cars speeding through the blackness.

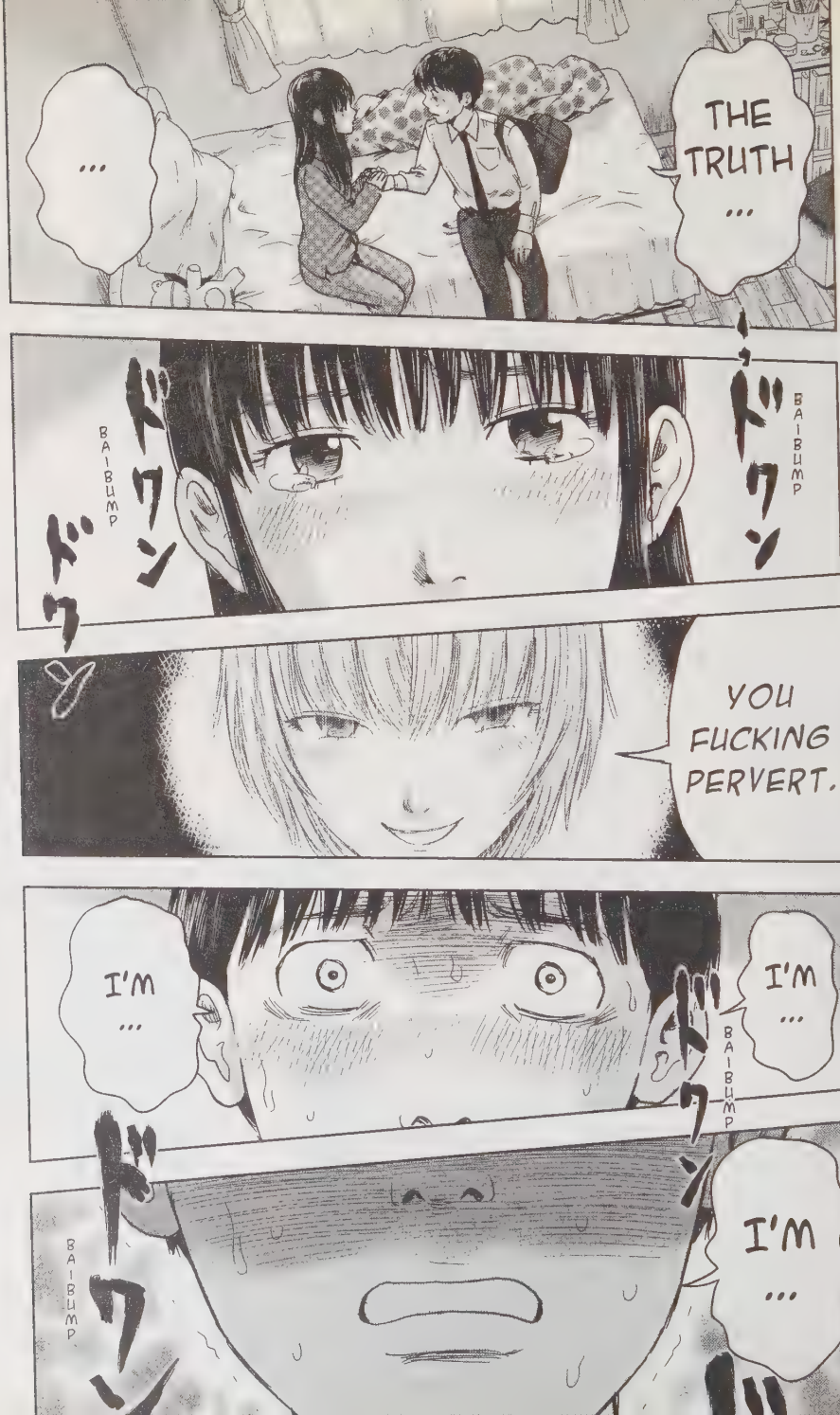

カァー
CAW
カァー
CAW
HI-
HIDING ... ANY-THING ...?
...
YES.
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP

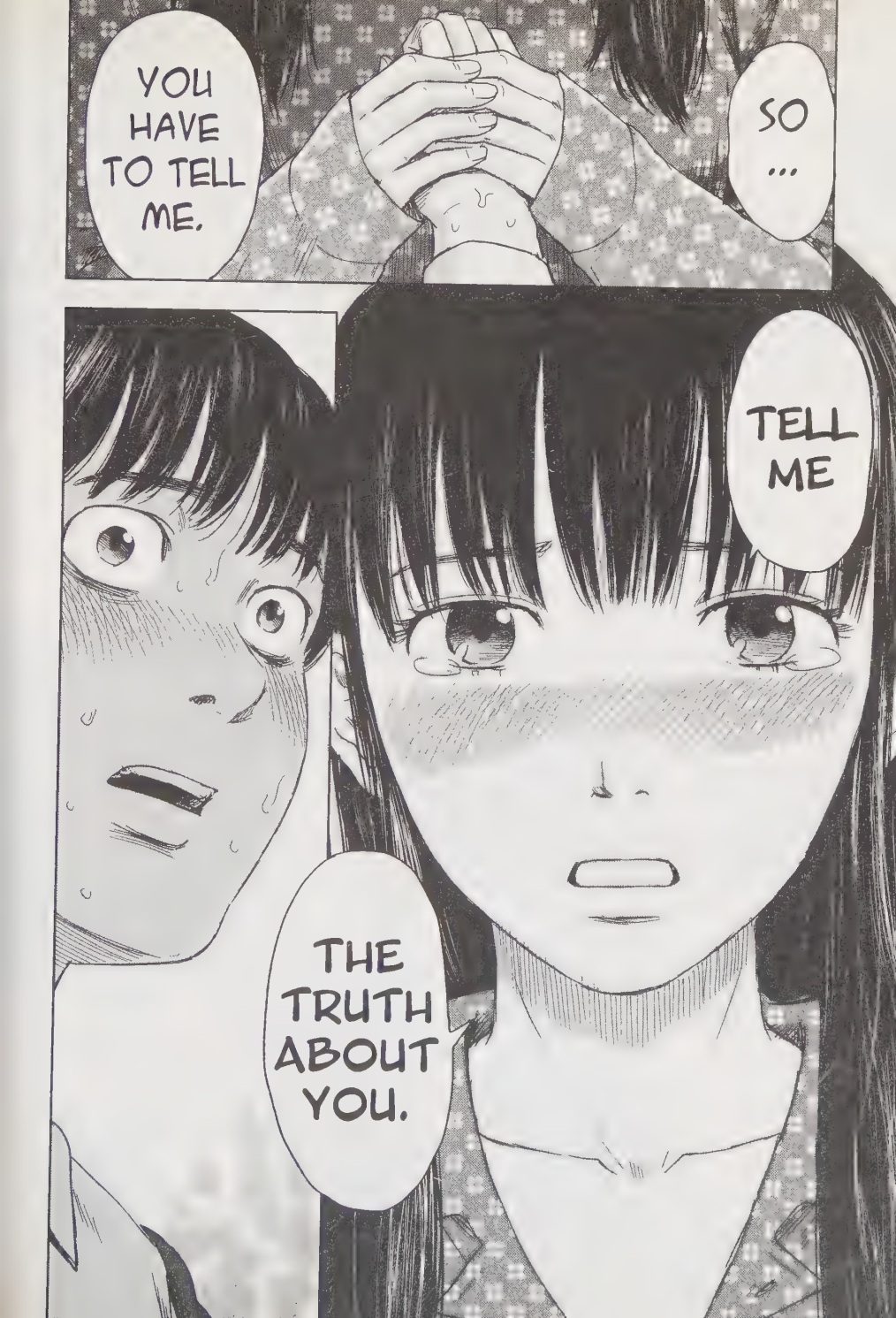
KA-
SUGA,
IF
YOU'RE
HIDING
ANY-
THING
FROM
ME
TELL
ME,
RIGHT
HERE
AND
RIGHT
NOW.

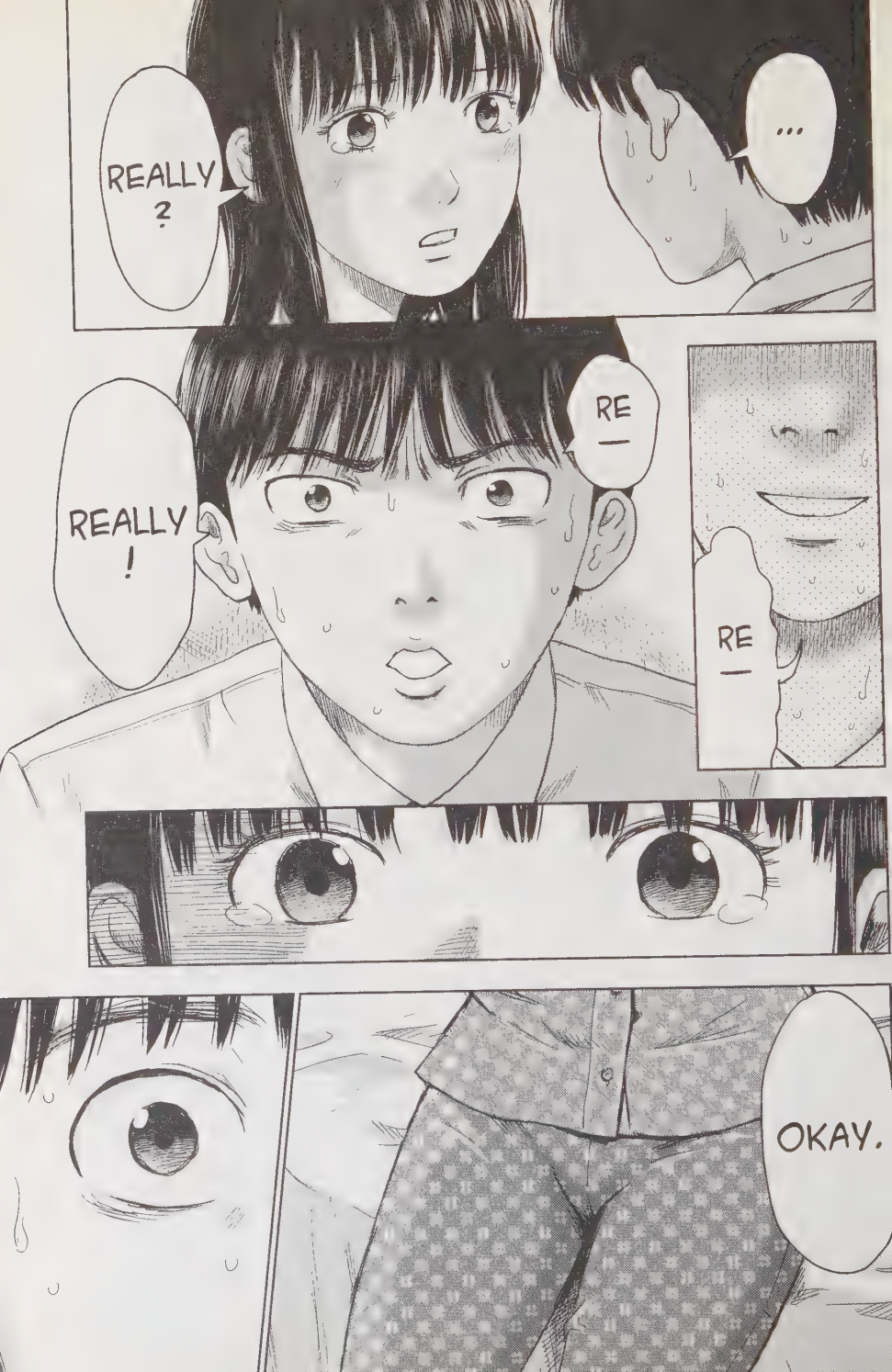


MY MOM AND DAD ...
MY TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ...
ALL THINK I'M A VERY RELIABLE GIRL.
BUT THAT'S ... NOT THE REAL ME.
YOU TOLD ME YOUR HONEST FEELINGS, KASUGA,
AND IT MADE ME SO HAPPY ... I WAS SO IMPRESSED.
BUT I'M SO WEAK... AND I STARTED TO NOT TRUST YOU...

2-1
Saeki
WH
...
WHY
...?
...
I...
I'M
A...
VERY
WEAK
PERSON.

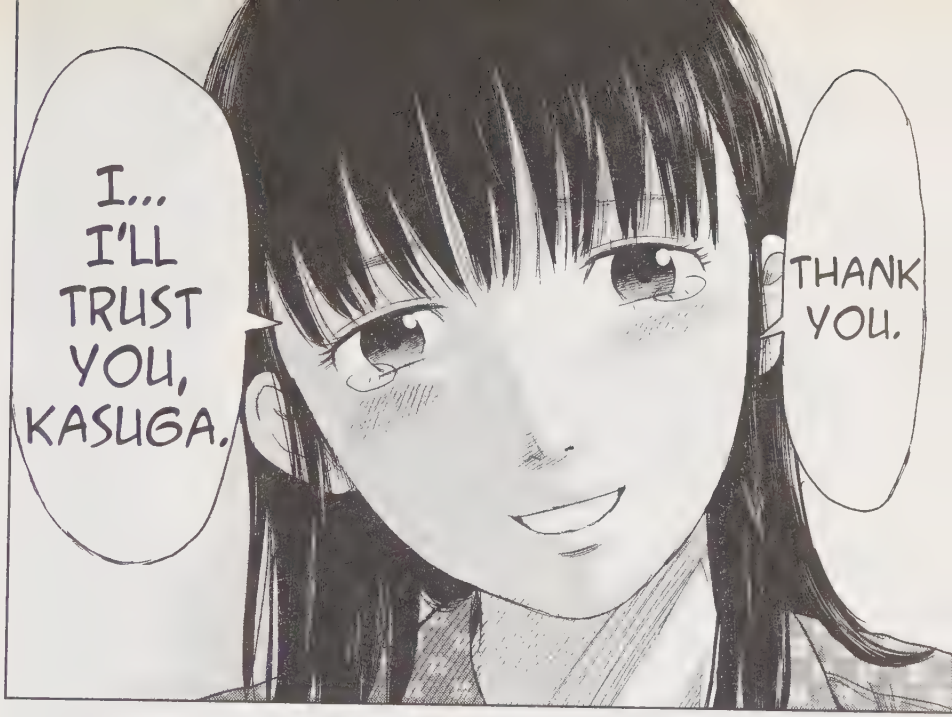

...
THE TRUTH ...
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
YOU FUCKING PERVERT.
I'M ...
I'M ...
ドクン
BAIBUMP
I'M ...
ドクン
BAIBUMP

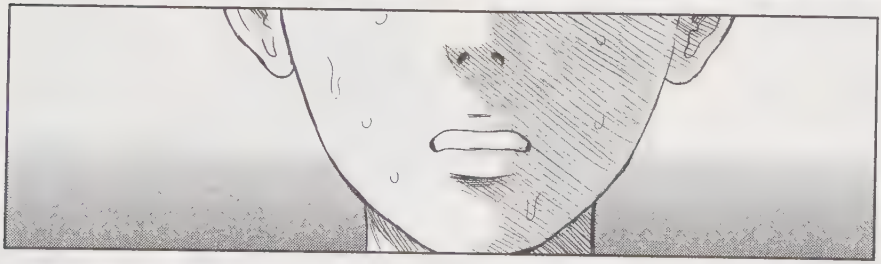

YOU HAVE TO TELL ME.
SO ...
TELL ME
THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU.


REALLY?
...
RE—
REALLY!
RE—
OKAY.

I-
I'M
NOT
HIDING
ANY-
THING!

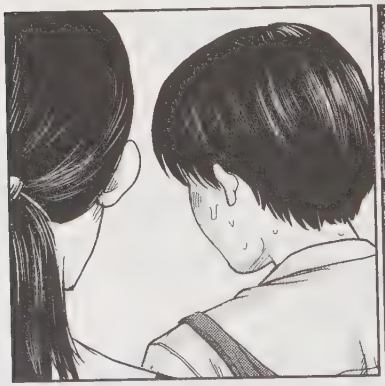
THE BOOK YOU GAVE ME...
I'M NOT DONE YET, BUT I'M READ-ING IT!
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
AH —
IT'S A PRETTY HARD BOOK ...
YOU'RE AMAZING, KASUGA.
パラ。
FLIP
EVEN IF IT'S HARD, I'M GOING TO READ IT ALL.
THEN I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK.
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
SHF
!

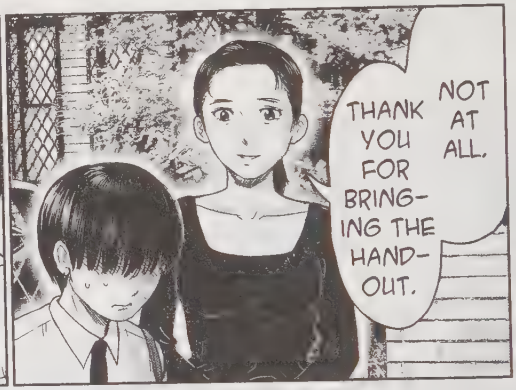

I... I'LL TRUST YOU, KASUGA.
THANK YOU.



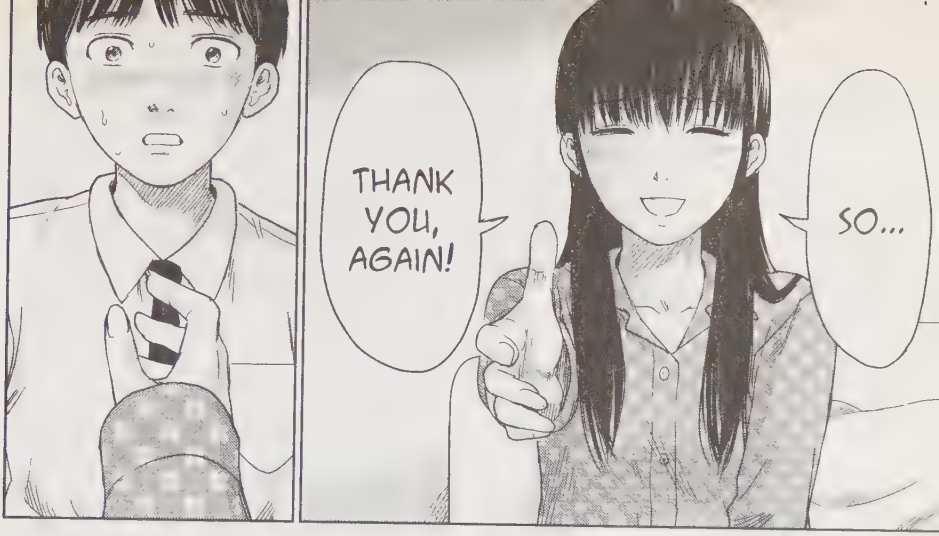
HERE, LOOK.
WHUMP
がばっ

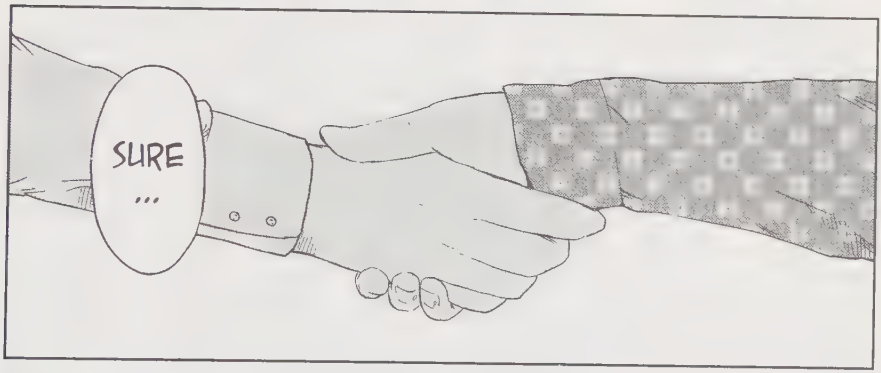
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.

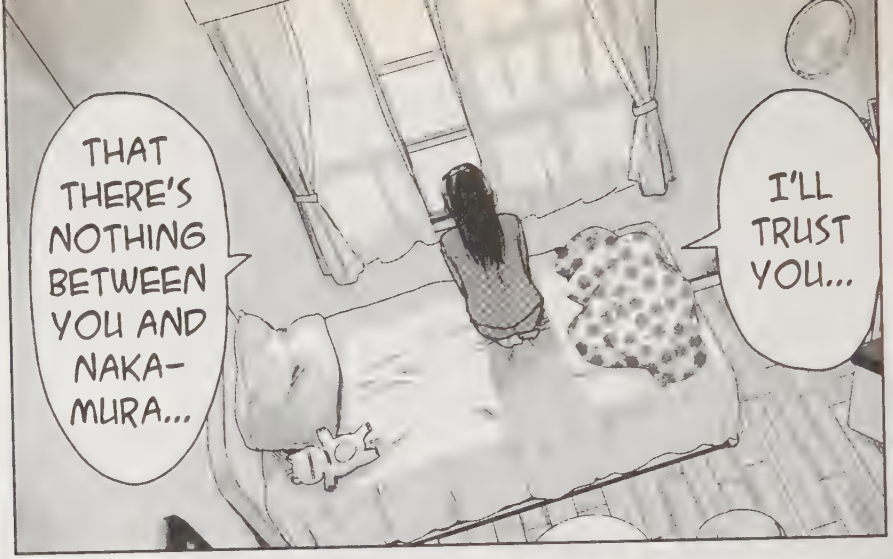


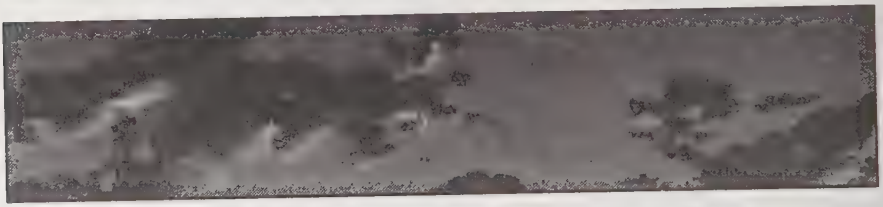

THANK YOU FOR BRING-ING THE HAND-OUT.
NOT AT ALL.

ペコ
nod

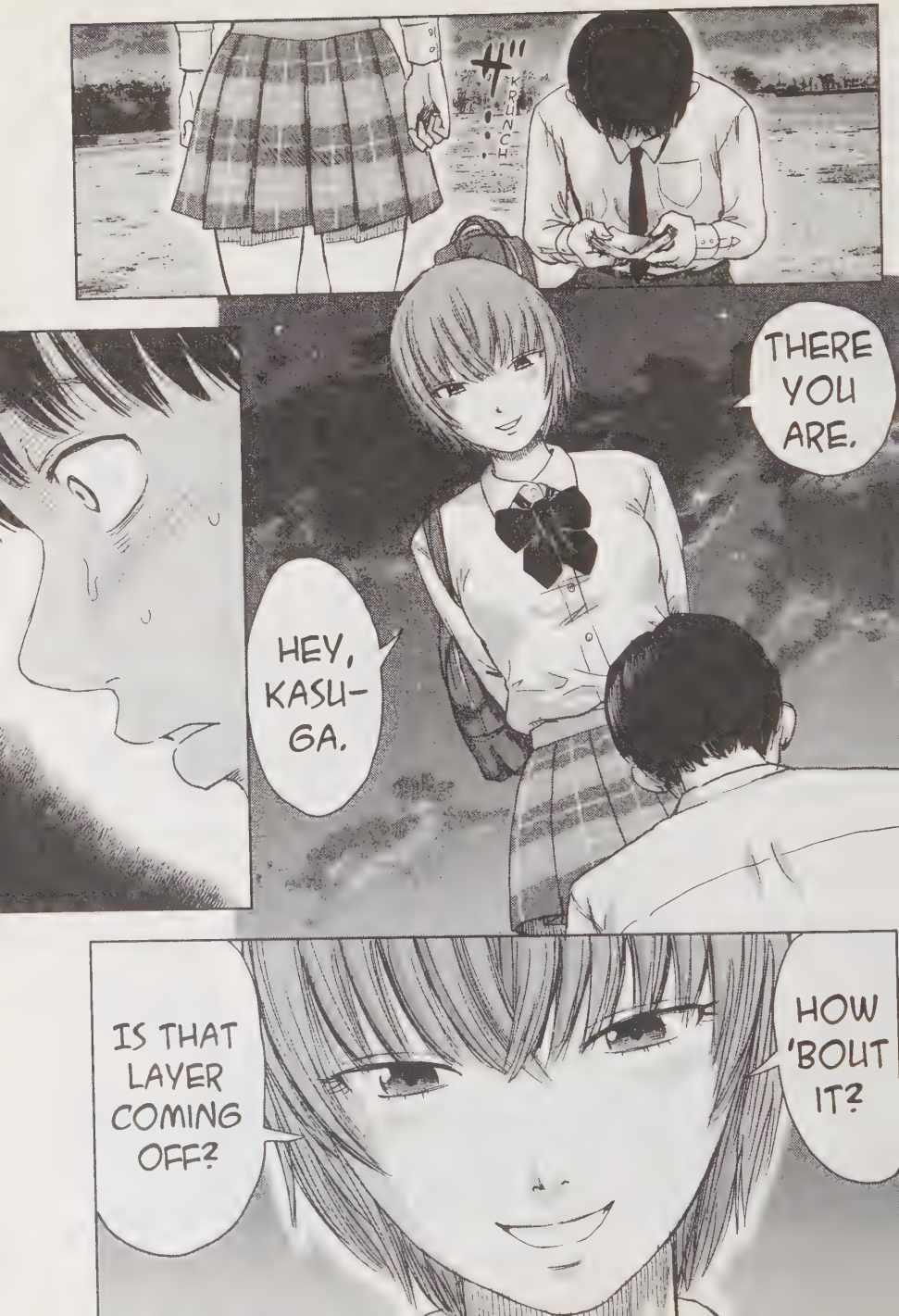

THANK YOU, AGAIN!
SO...


SURE ...


THAT THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND NAKA-MURA...
I'LL TRUST YOU...

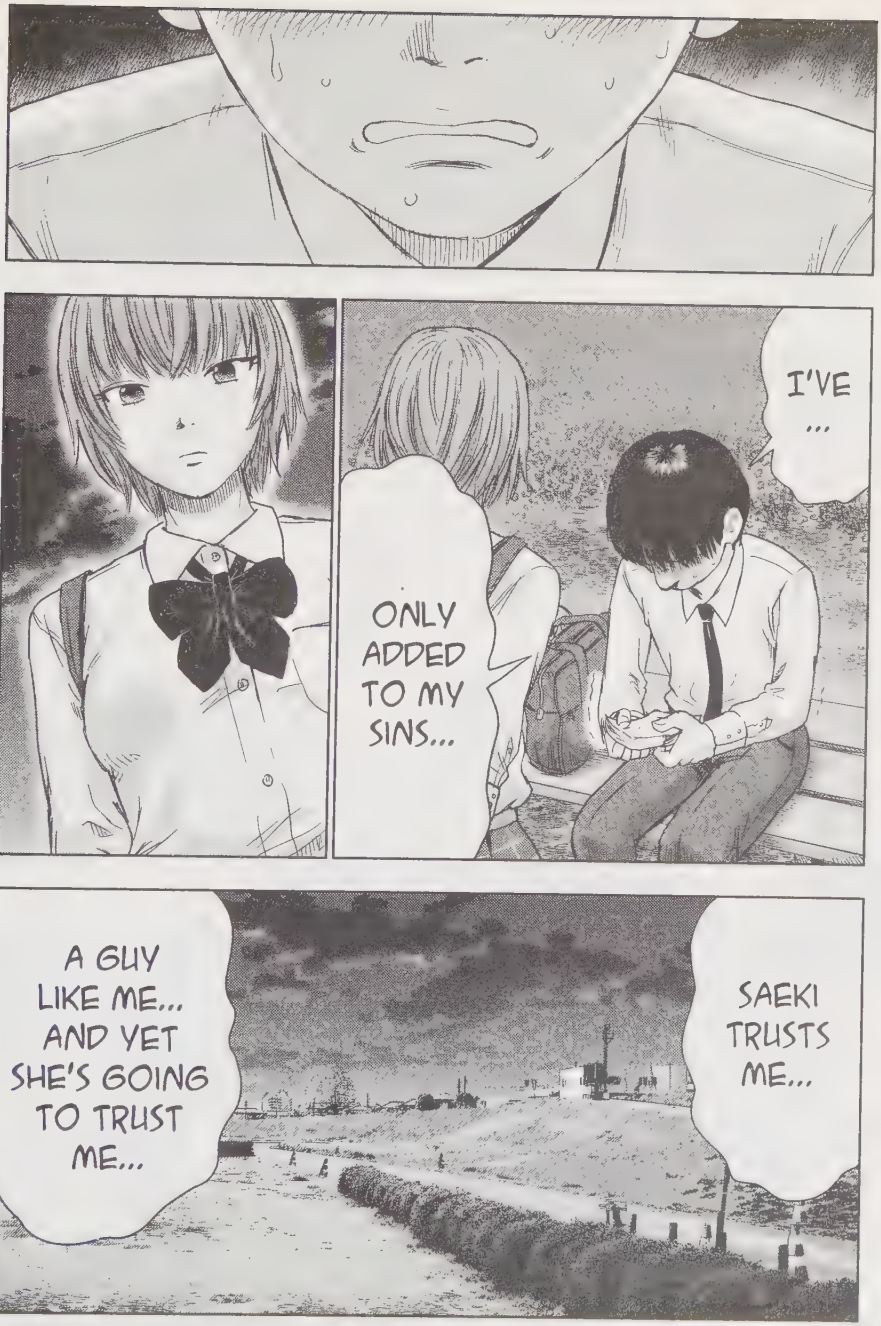


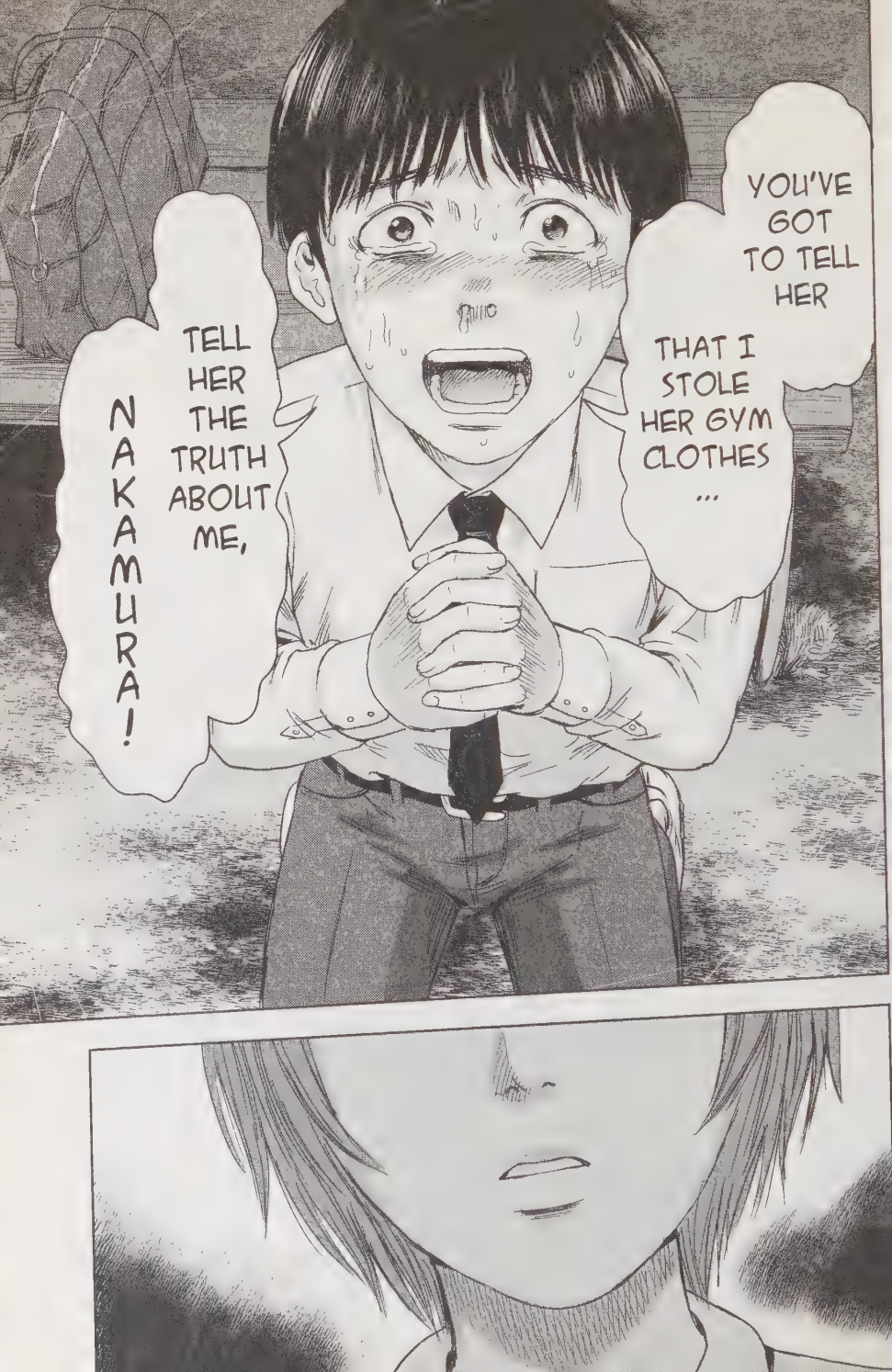
WITH YOU, KASUGA.
... HAVE SEX


KRUNCH
THERE YOU ARE.
HEY, KASU-GA.
IS THAT LAYER COMING OFF?
HOW 'BOUT IT?

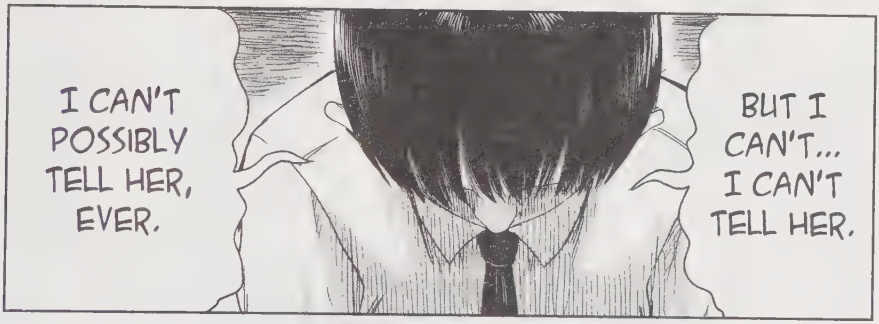
ぎゅっ
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation Daigaku Horiguchi
ぐ
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation Daigaku Horiguchi

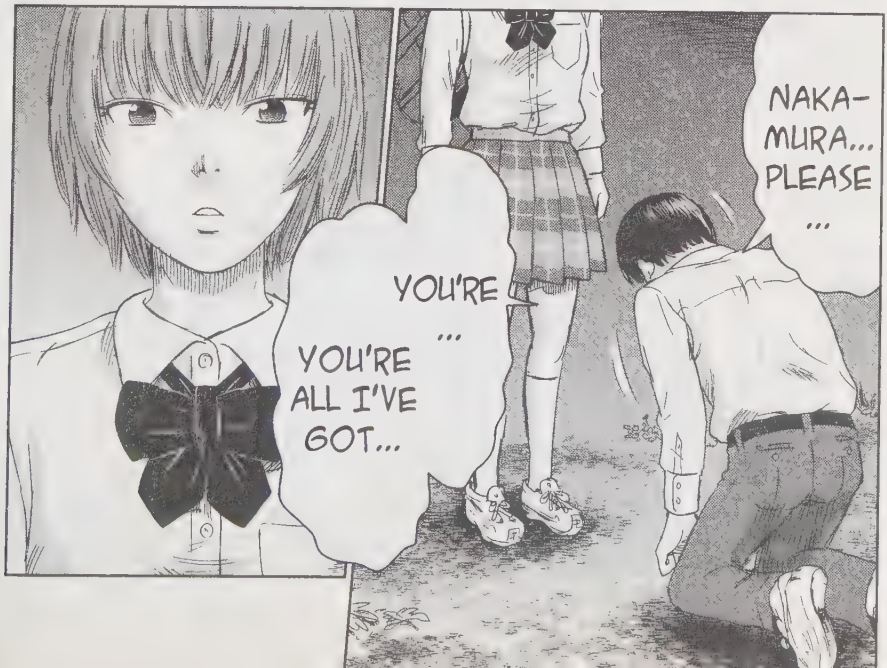
AND YET... I GO ON BETRAYING HER FEELINGS...
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
EVEN READING THE FLOWERS OF EVIL...
I'm a shit-bug !
I'm scum !

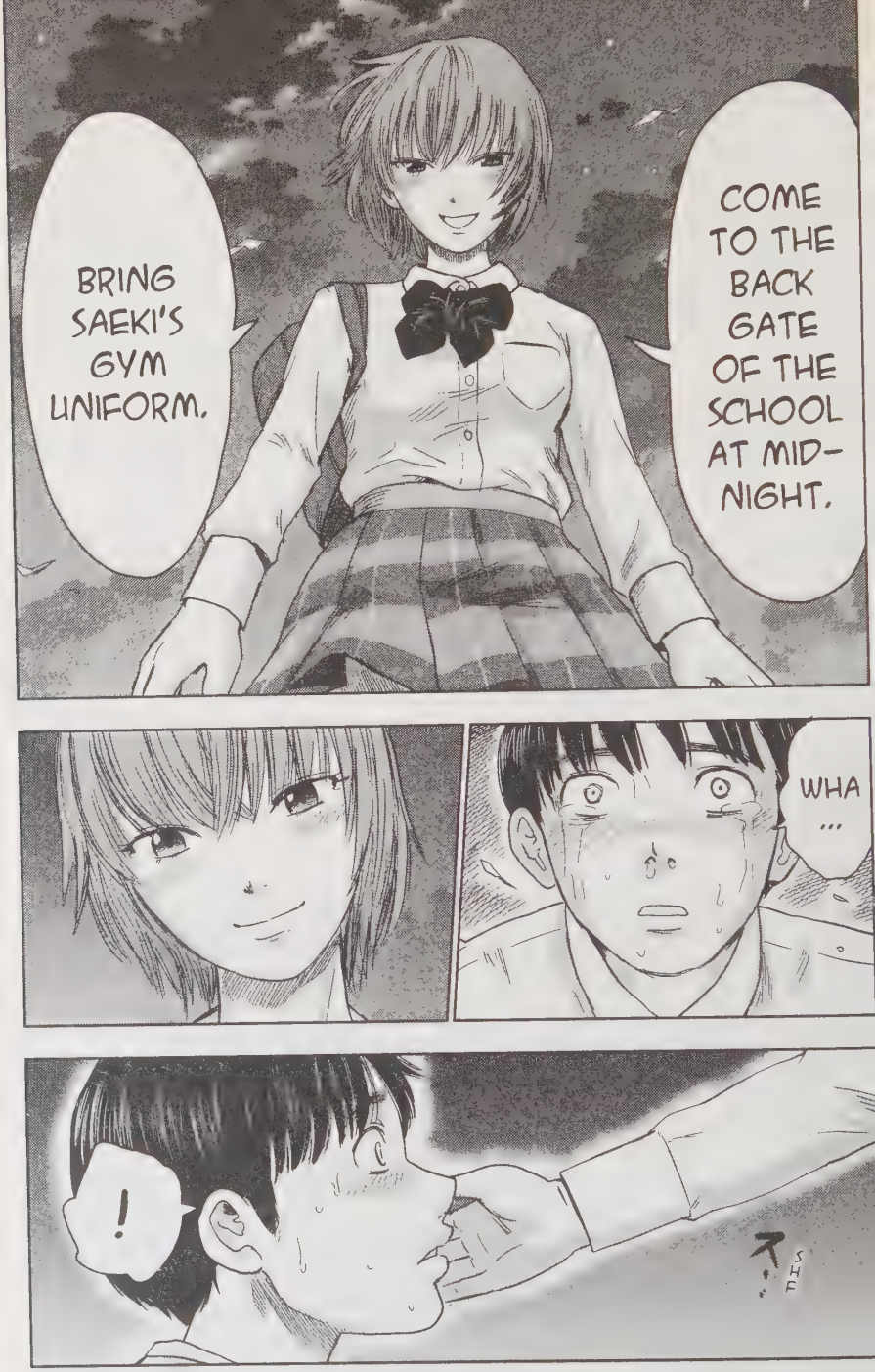

I'VE ...
ONLY ADDED TO MY SINS...
SAEKI TRUSTS ME...
A GUY LIKE ME... AND YET SHE'S GOING TO TRUST ME...


YOU'VE GOT TO TELL HER
THAT I STOLE HER GYM CLOTHES ...
TELL HER THE TRUTH ABOUT ME,
NAKAMURA!

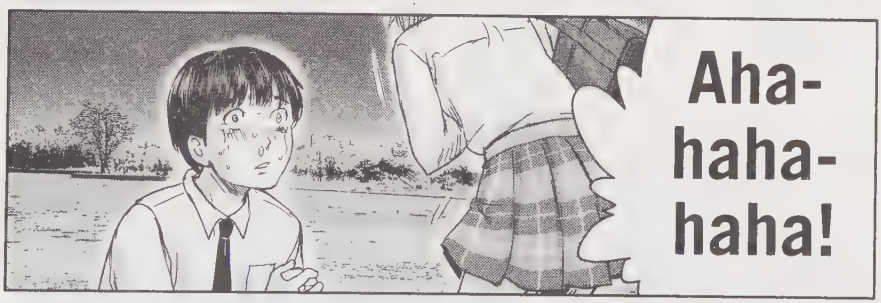
...
YOU ARE.
YEAH ♪

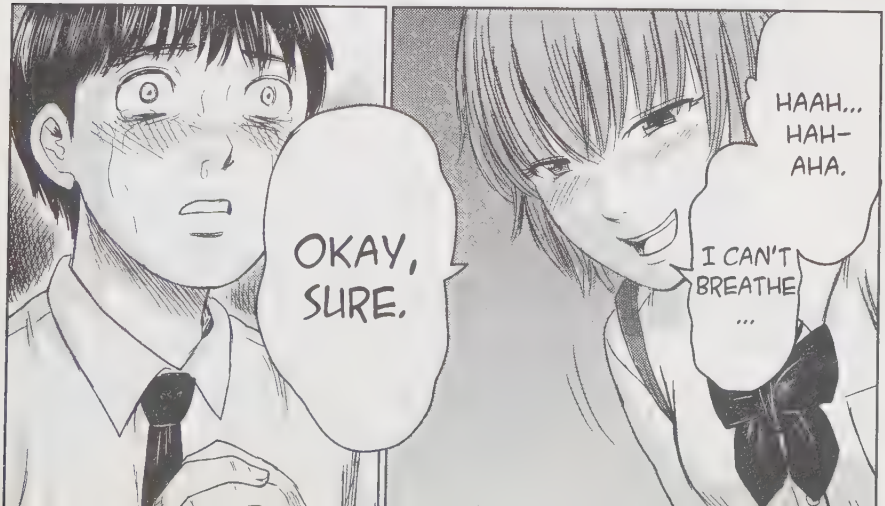

I CAN'T POSSIBLY TELL HER, EVER.
BUT I CAN'T... I CAN'T TELL HER.


YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT...
YOU'RE ...
NAKA-MURA... PLEASE ...

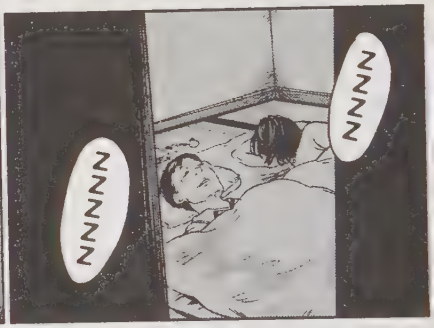

COME TO THE BACK GATE OF THE SCHOOL AT MID-NIGHT.
BRING SAEKI'S GYM UNIFORM.
WHA ...
!
SHE

Haha-
haha-
haha-
ha♪
Bwa-
haha-
ha!

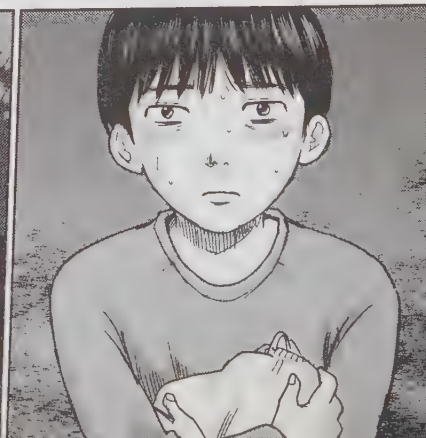

Aha-
haha-
haha!


OKAY,
SURE.
HAAH...
HAH-
AHA.
I CAN'T
BREATHE
...

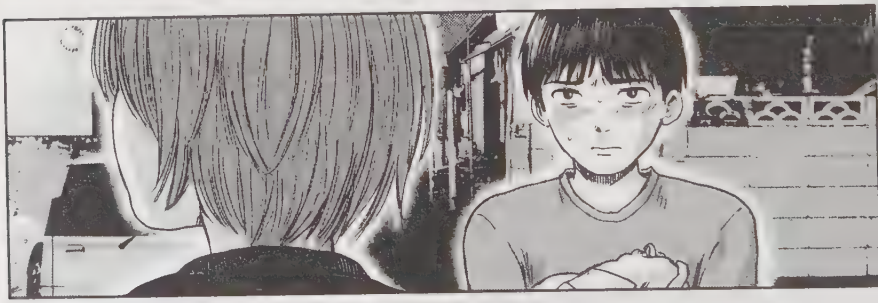
...

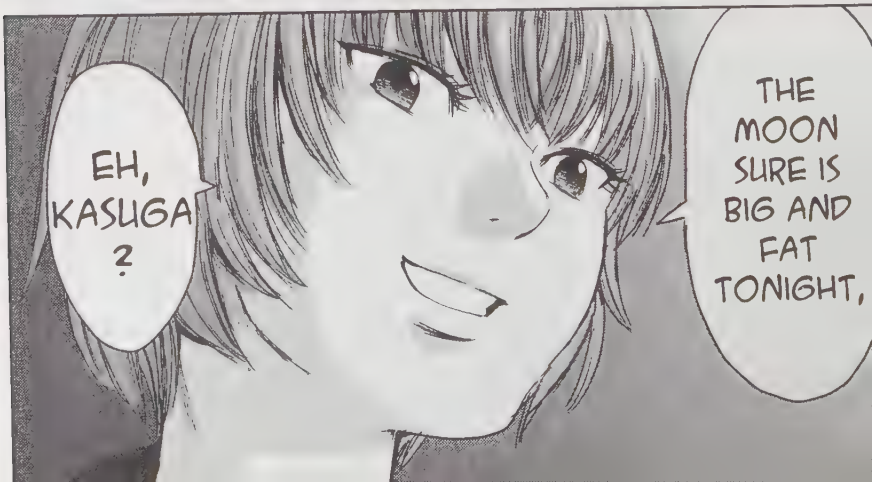

ZZZZ
ZZZZZZ

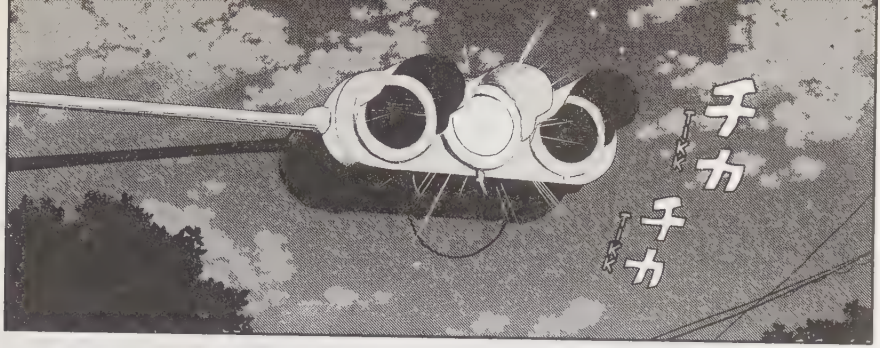
BTAM

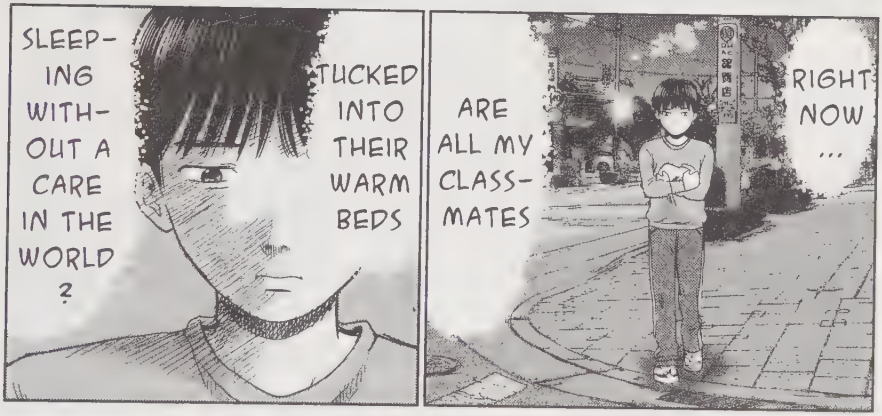


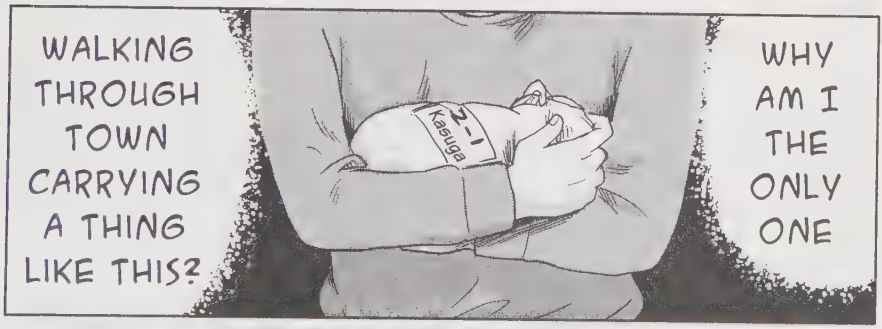
THAT FACE. YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, KASUGA.
MAKE SURE YOU COME.
ゴ
WOOOOOM




THE MOON SURE IS BIG AND FAT TONIGHT,
EH, KASUGA ?

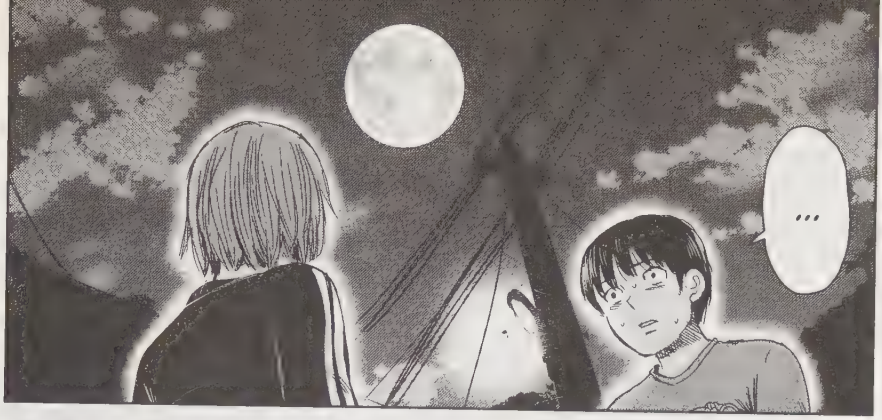

チカ
TIKK
チカ
TIKK

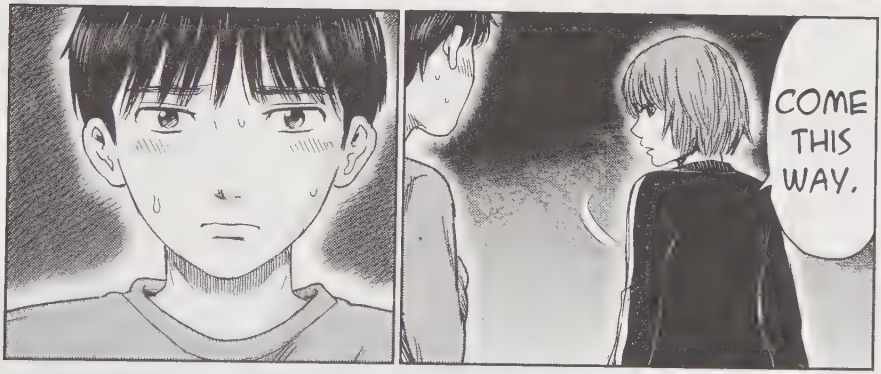

SLEEP-
ING
WITH-
OUT A
CARE
IN THE
WORLD
?
TUCKED
INTO
THEIR
WARM
BEDS
ARE
ALL MY
CLASS-
MATES
RIGHT
NOW
...

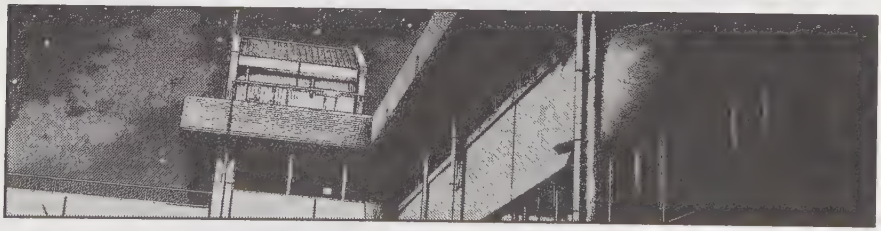

WALKING
THROUGH
TOWN
CARRYING
A THING
LIKE THIS?
2-1
Kasuga
WHY
AM I
THE
ONLY
ONE

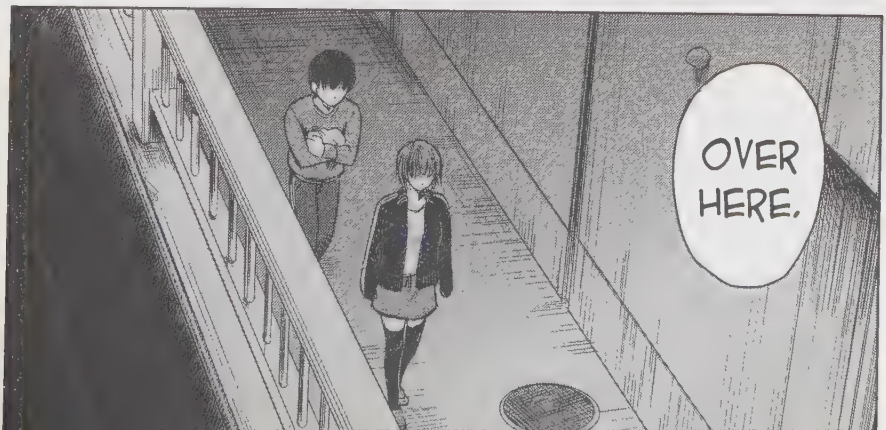
ひた。
IRIDE
ひた。
IRIDE
ひた。
IRIDE

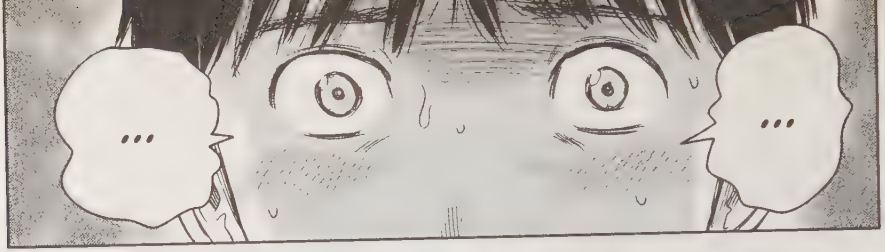
ガタッ
RATTLE
ガタ
RATTLE
ガタッ
カラ…
CLATTER
HUP!
WHUMP
HUH...?

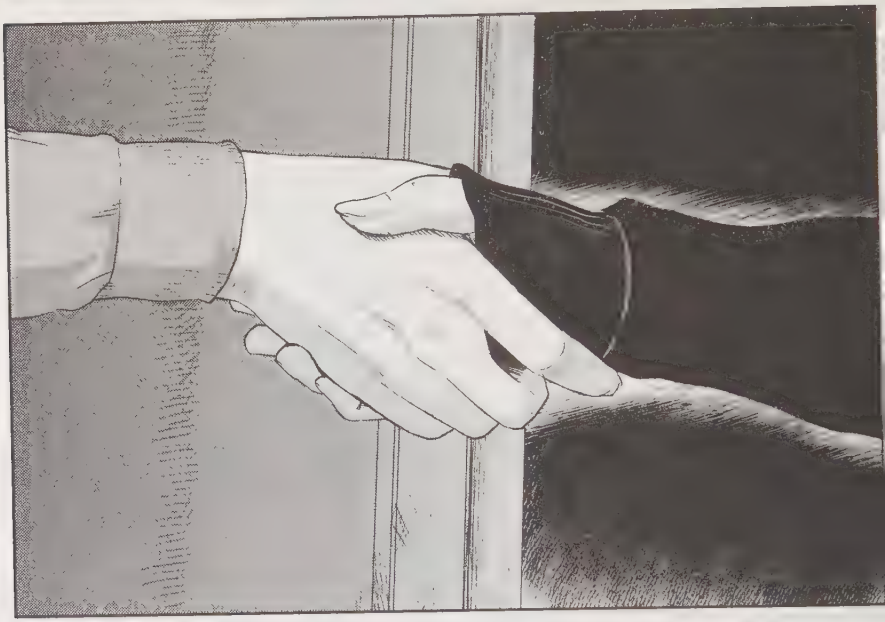

...

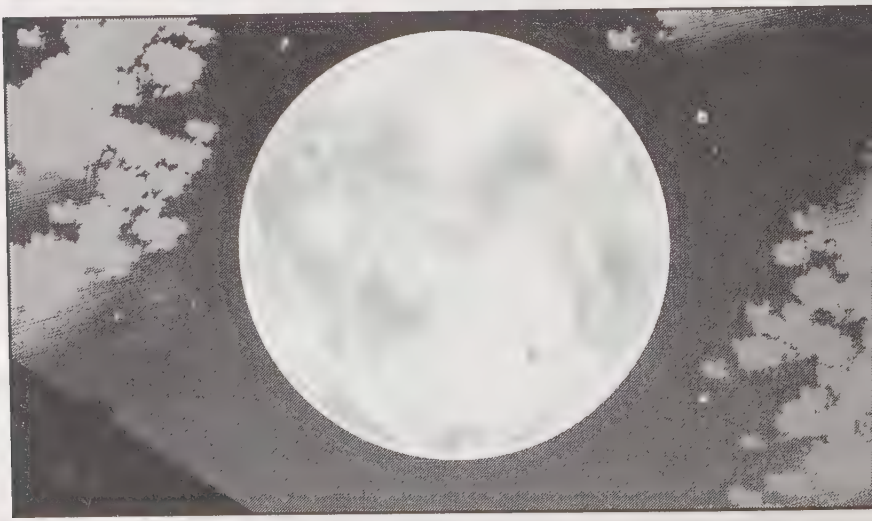

COME THIS WAY.



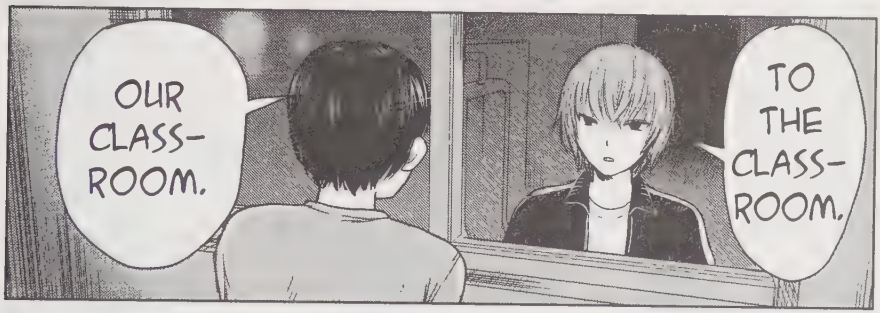

OVER HERE.

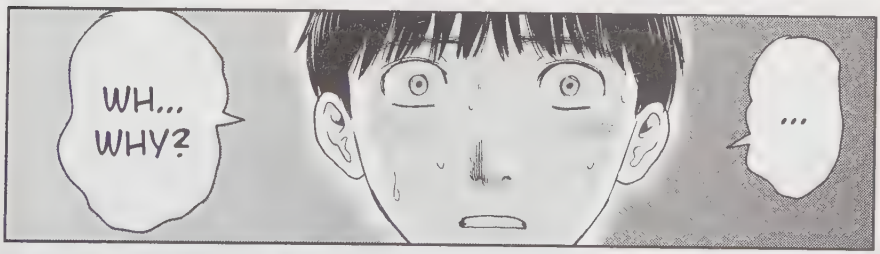


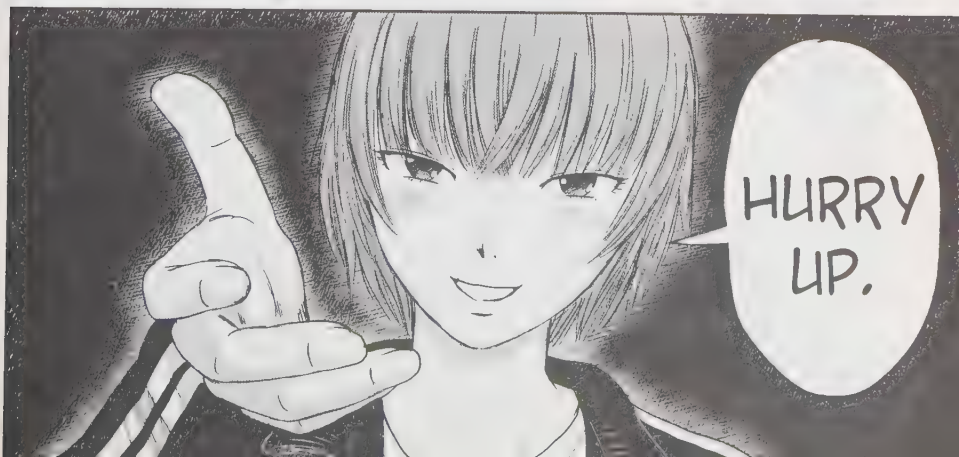


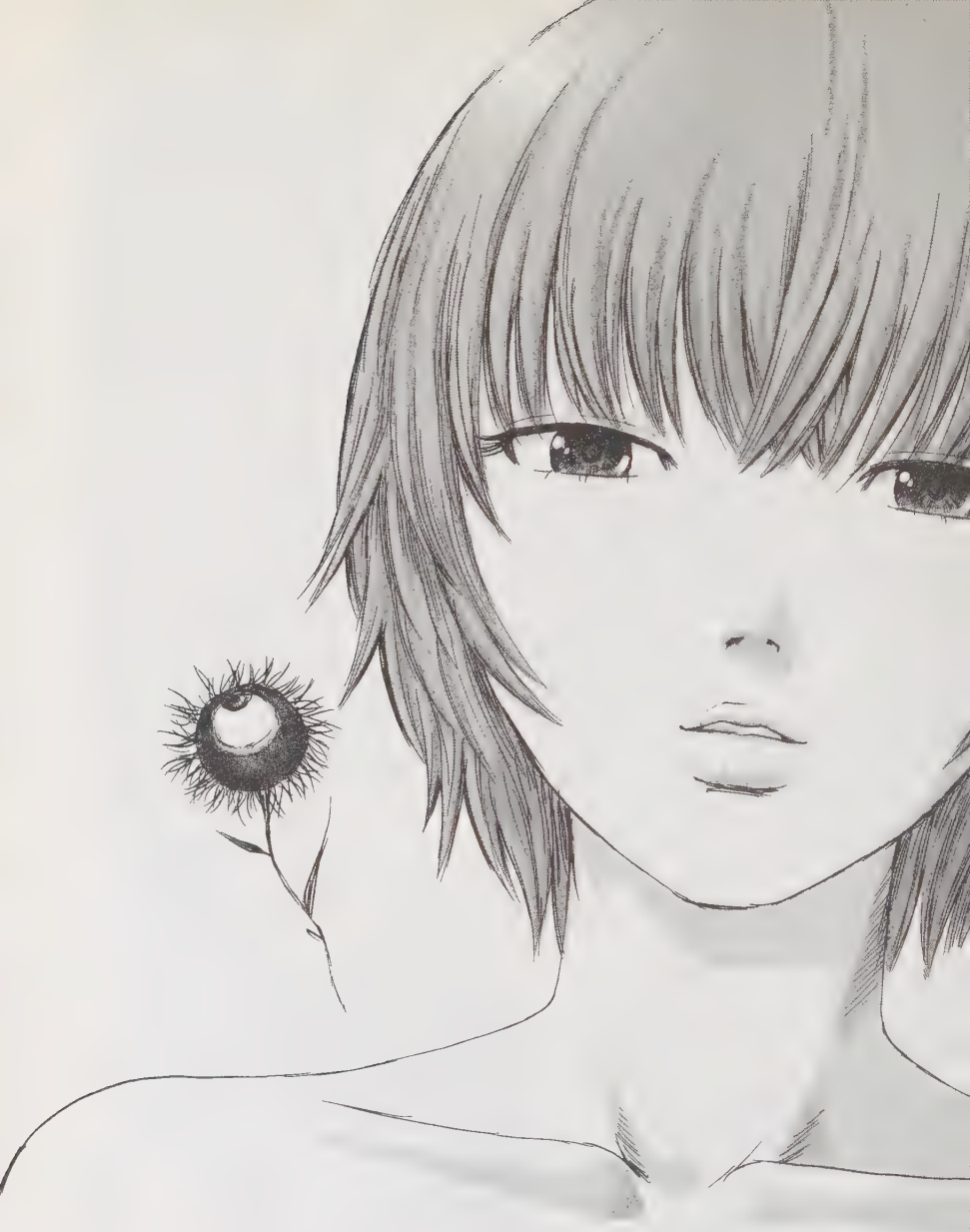


HEY —
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
トン
TUP


TO THE CLASS-ROOM.
OUR CLASS-ROOM.


...
WH... WHY?


HURRY UP.

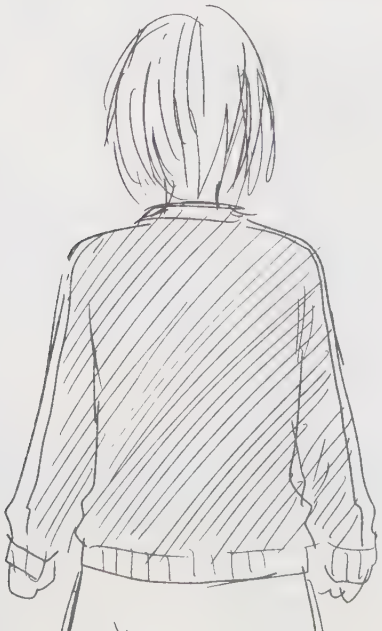


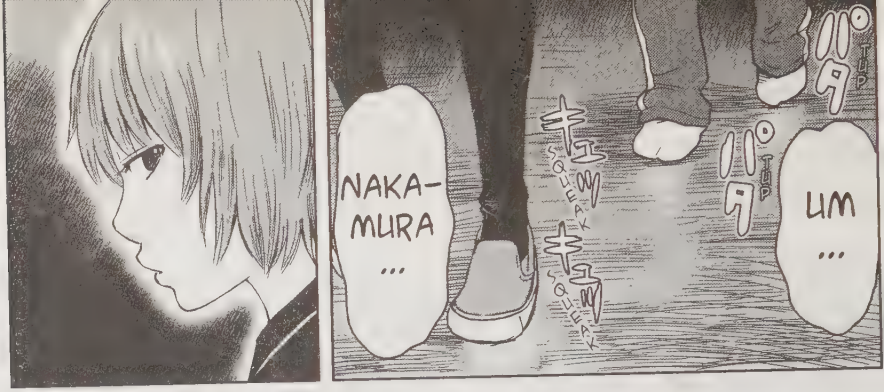
Chapter 12: That Which Punishes Self and Soul

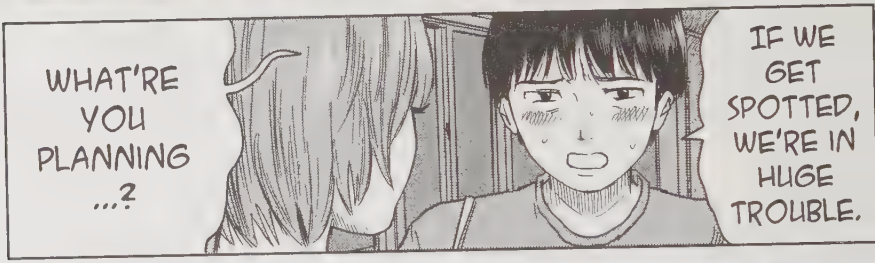
Afterword

Chapter 12

Back when I was in junior high, when I was done with cram school I'd often go back to the school at night for no reason, and hang out on the emergency stairs. Nowadays I kill time at pubs, karaoke, or manga cafes, but back then the only places I could go were pretty much the riverbank, the school stairs, and the bookstore. I'd go there, and feel endless angst.

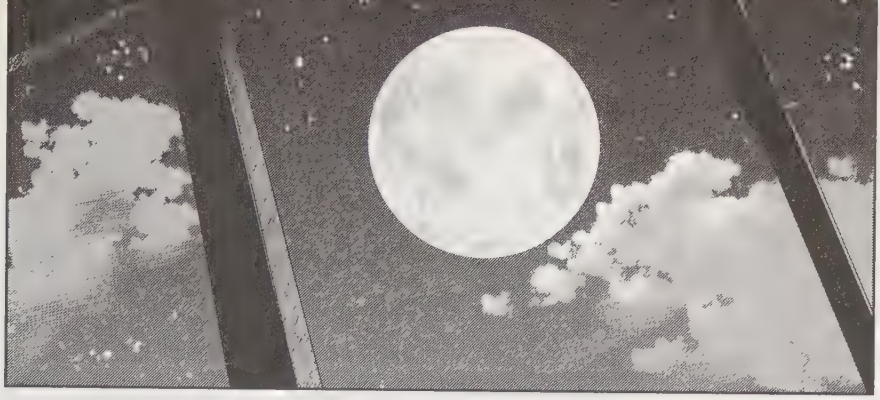


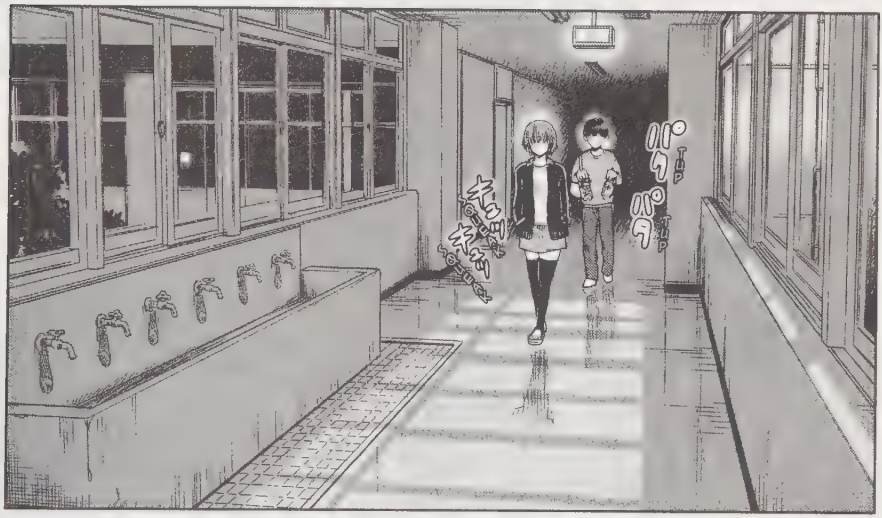

UM ...
NAKA-MURA ...

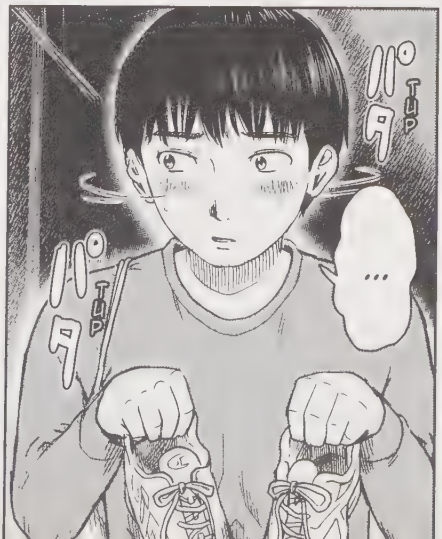

IF WE GET SPOTTED, WE'RE IN HUGE TROUBLE.
WHAT'RE YOU PLANNING ...?

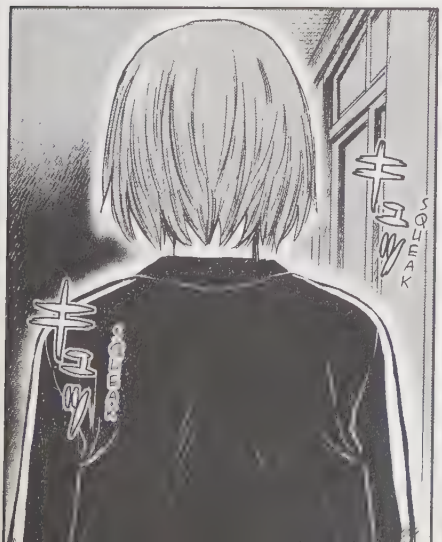
JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP.

UH ...
...

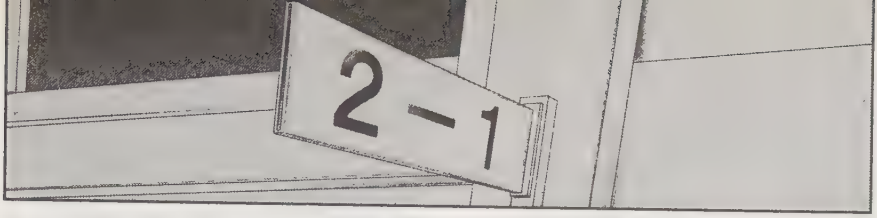



パタ TUP
パタ TUP


パタ TUP
パタ TUP
…


キュッ SQUEAK
キュッ SQUEAK

HUH ...?
2-1 Kasuga
...
HAND 'EM OVER.
SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES.
KA-SUGA.
WHOOP
WHOOP
KA-SUGA.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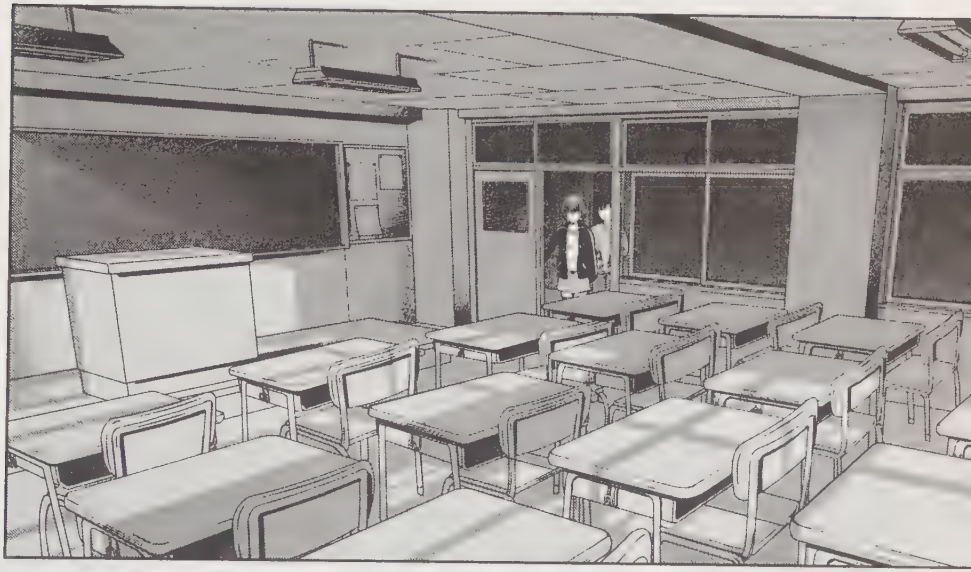
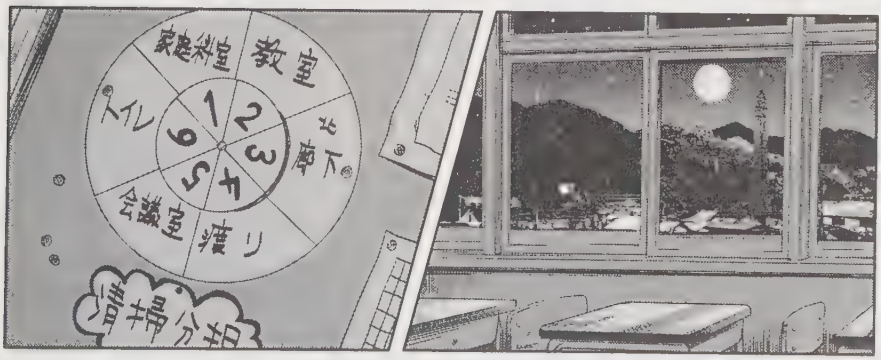
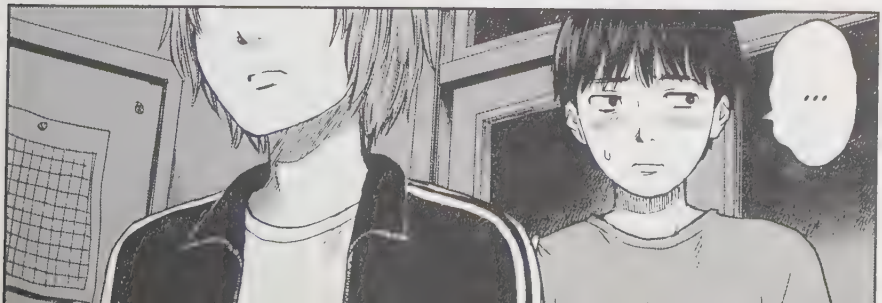



教室
廊下
縛り
会議室
トイレ
家庭科室
1
2
3
4
5
6
清掃分担


…

UM ... SO ...

WHY DID WE SNEAK IN HERE?

I DON'T GET IT...

バサ…

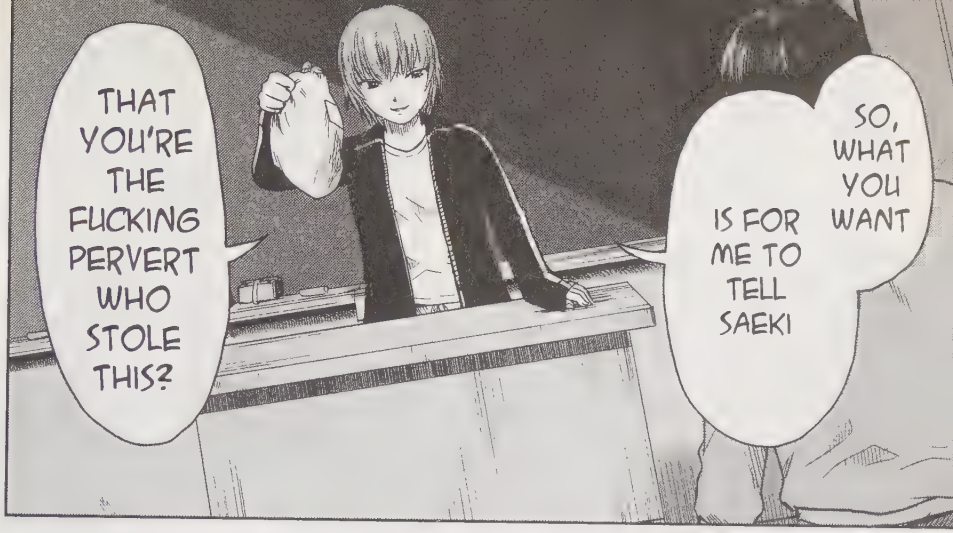
FWISH

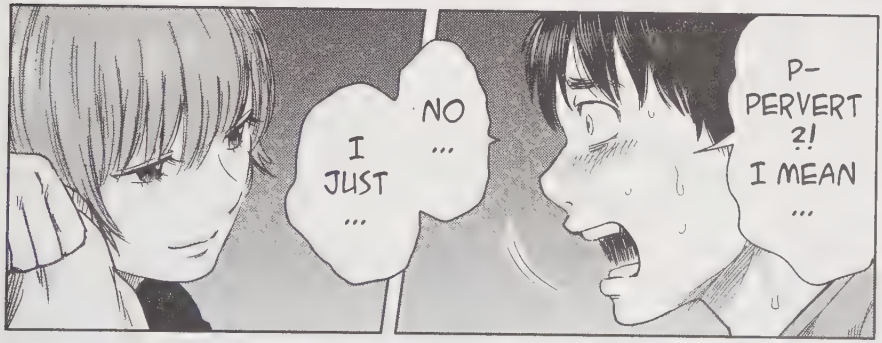
Saeki

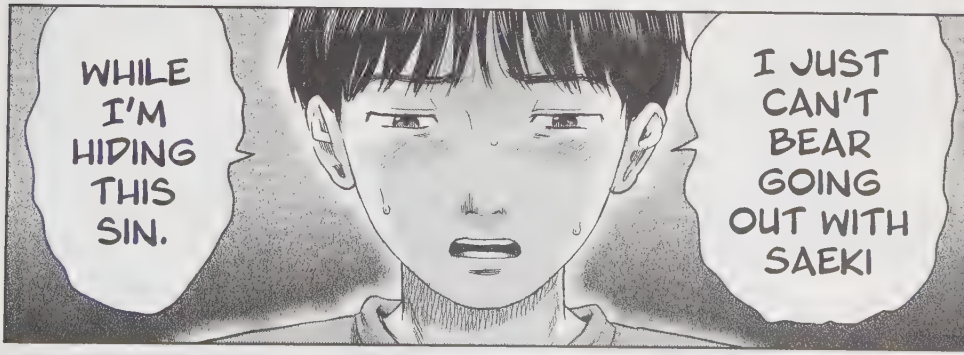
COME HERE.

ドクン…

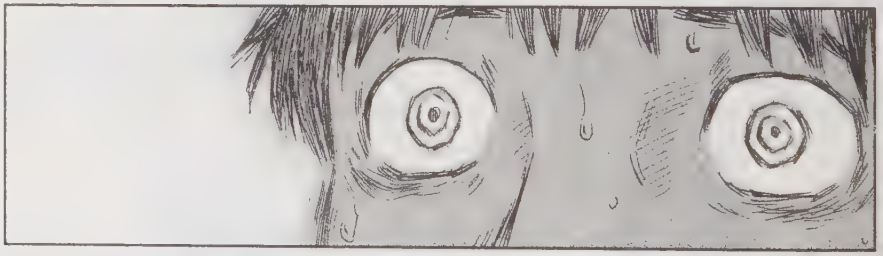
BAIBUMP

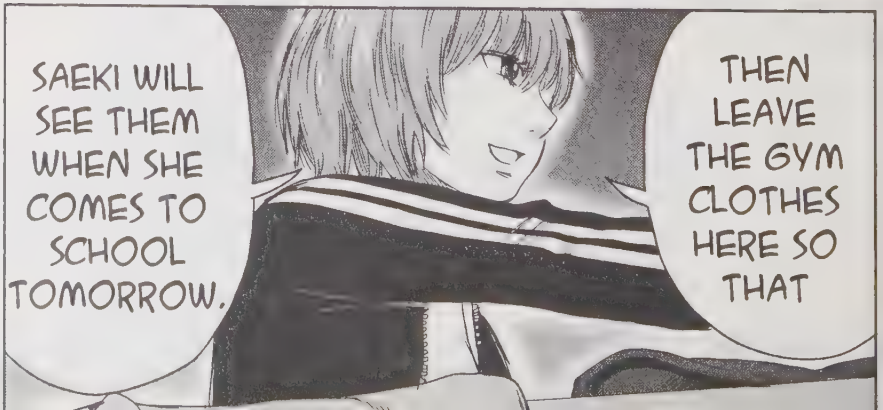

SO, WHAT YOU WANT IS FOR ME TO TELL SAEKI
THAT YOU'RE THE FUCKING PERVERT WHO STOLE THIS?

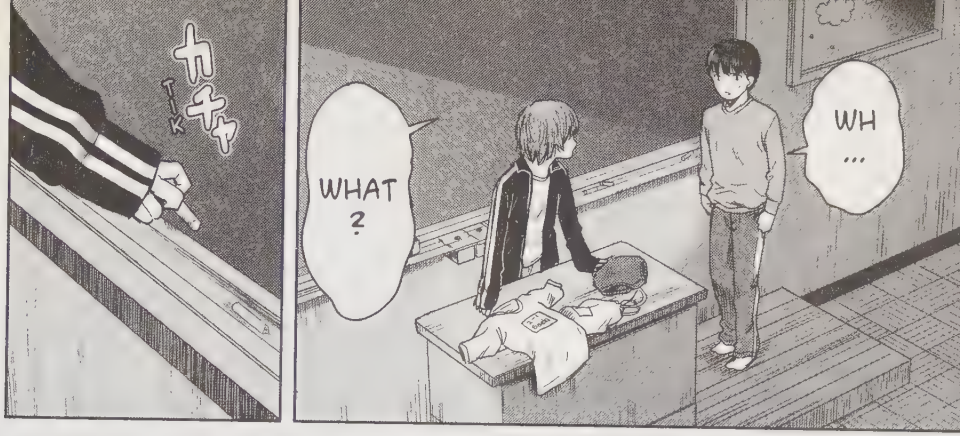

P- PERVERT ?! I MEAN ...
NO ... I JUST ...

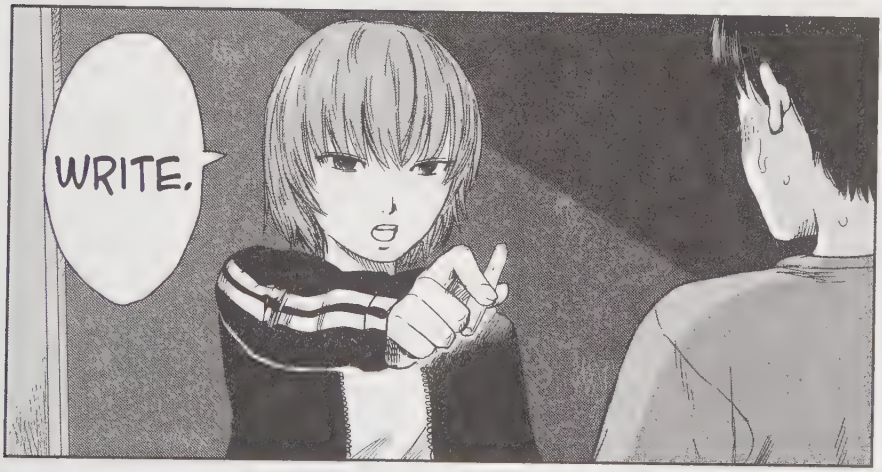

I JUST CAN'T BEAR GOING OUT WITH SAEKI
WHILE I'M HIDING THIS SIN.

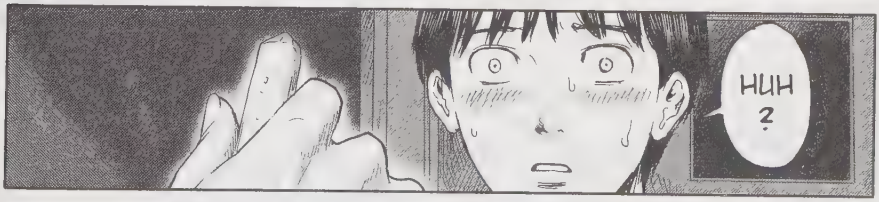
THAT YOU STOLE NANAKO SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES.
THAT YOU WORE THEM ON A DATE WITH HER
THAT YOU RUBBED THEM ALL OVER YOURSELF.
AND EVEN CONFESSED YOUR FEELINGS TO HER IN THEM —
"I, TAKAO KASUGA, TOTAL PERV, TURD GUY."

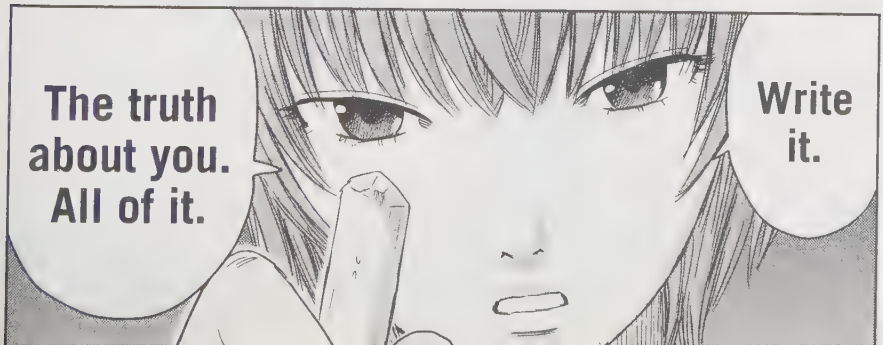


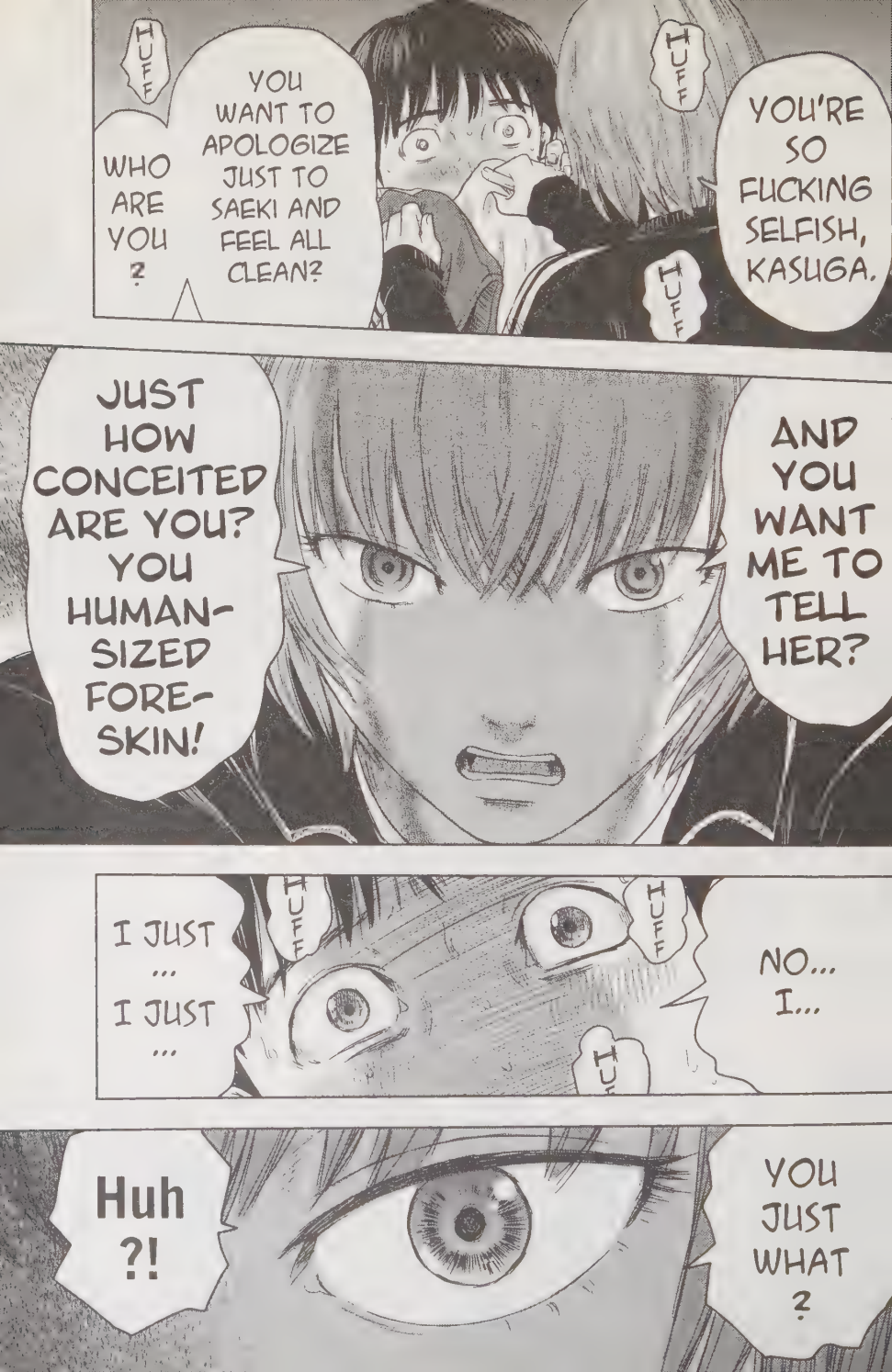

THEN LEAVE THE GYM CLOTHES HERE SO THAT
SAEKI WILL SEE THEM WHEN SHE COMES TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.


カチャ
TIK
WHAT ?
WH ...


WRITE.


HUH ?


The truth about you. All of it.
Write it.


HUFF
YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE JUST TO SAEKI AND FEEL ALL CLEAN?
WHO ARE YOU?
HUFF
HUFF
YOU'RE SO FUCKING SELFISH, KASUGA.
JUST HOW CONCEITED ARE YOU? YOU HUMAN-SIZED FORE-SKIN!
AND YOU WANT ME TO TELL HER?
HUFF
HUFF
I JUST ... I JUST ...
NO... I...
Huh?!
YOU JUST WHAT?

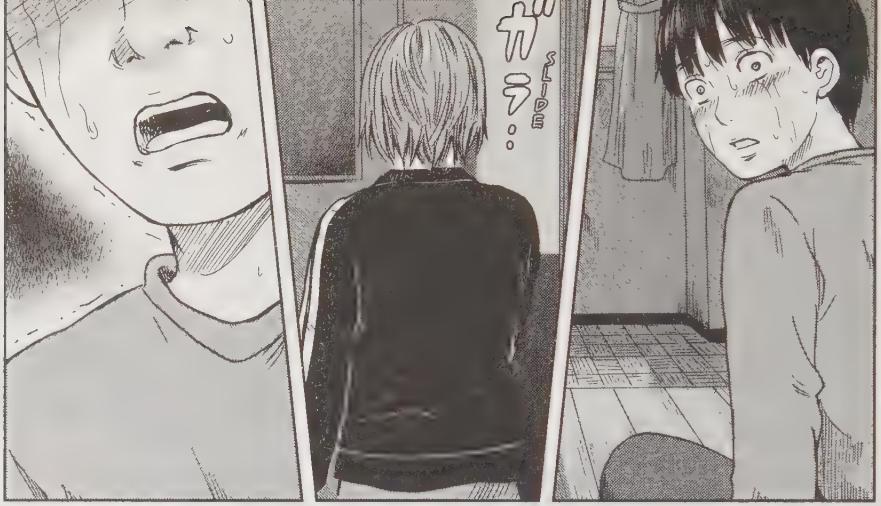
WHA... NO... I DIDN'T RUB— BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
IF I DO THAT EVERY-BODY ELSE IN THE CLASS WILL KNOW, TOO!
YUP.
OF COURSE THEY WILL.
WHAP
SO HURRY UP.
!!
C'MON, WRITE!
GRAB
UH...
NO!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS!

IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THEM.
YOU'VE LET ME DOWN.
OBSESSED WITH WHO LIKES WHO OR WHO HATES WHO.
SCUM BUNS WHO'RE BETTER OFF DEAD! YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!
ALWAYS IN A CLUSTER LIKE PIECES OF SHIT
WITH THEIR PUKEY TALK AND PUKEY LAUGHS

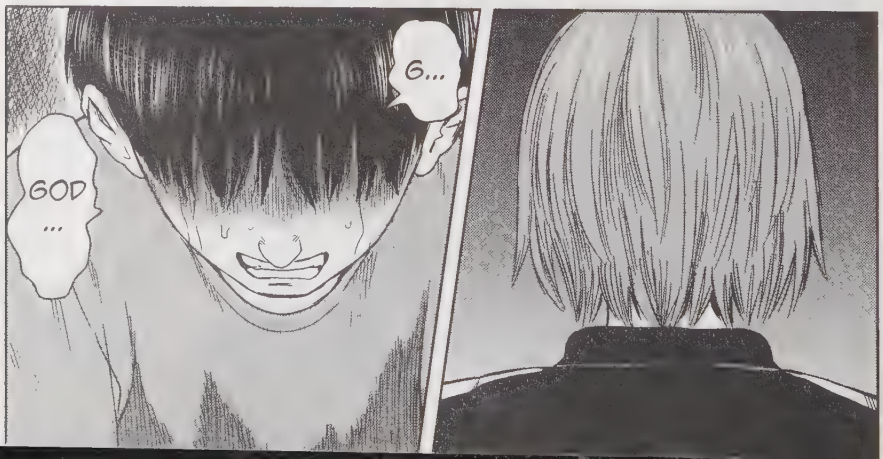
A GOOD, DECENT PERSON ...
I JUST WANT TO BE... WORTHY OF HER...
NO... NO, I...
I want to be normal!
I... I...
WHEW ...
...

Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Borinn
nggaa
ahhhh
!!!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
Boring!
DASH

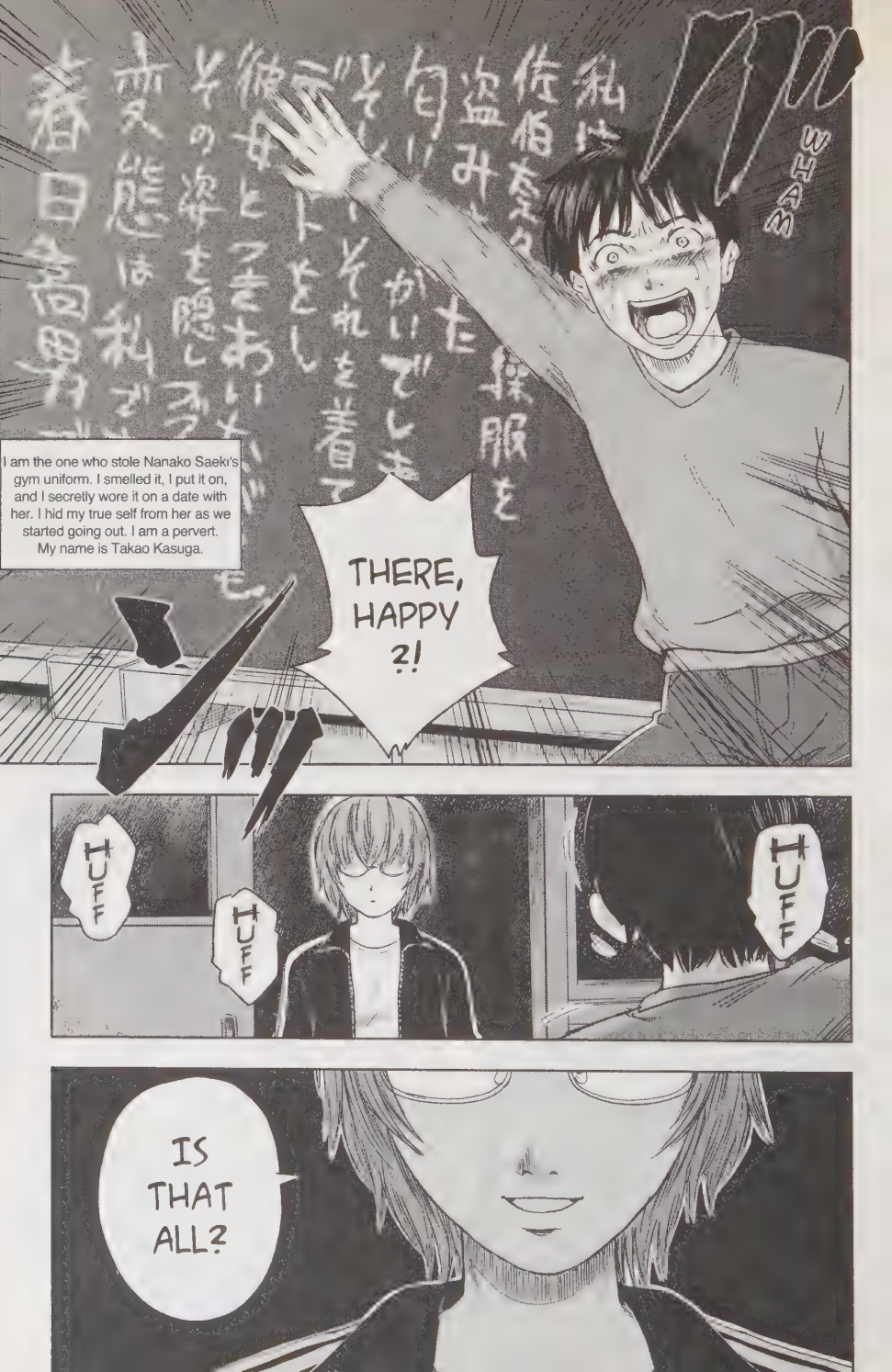
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
Translation: Daigaku Horiguchi
sex, sex— shitty sex is what they want!
They all spit out pretty words but deep inside it's
HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
BAUDE-LAIRE ...
THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO, HERE...


ガラ…
SLIDE

Naka-
mura!

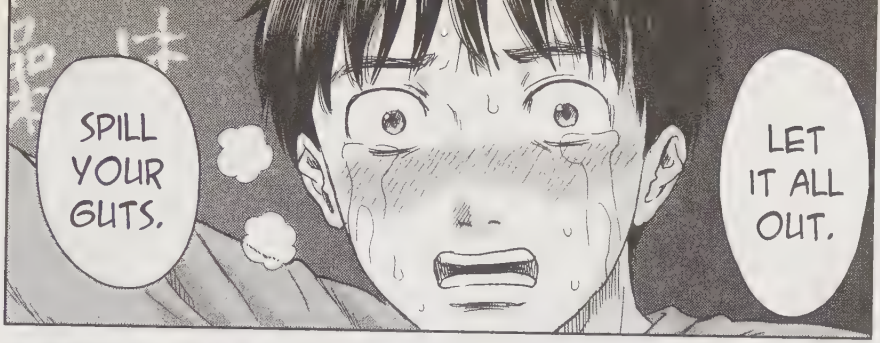

G...
GOD
...

スタスタ
FINE, WHATEVER.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
OUR CONTRACT IS OVER.
DON'T EVER SPEAK TO ME AGAIN.
GOODBYE.


私は佐伯奈々の盗み
THERE, HAPPY ?!
I am the one who stole Nanako Saeki's gym uniform. I smelled it, I put it on, and I secretly wore it on a date with her. I hid my true self from her as we started going out. I am a pervert. My name is Takao Kasuga.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
IS THAT ALL?

GOD DAMN IT!!
CHAKK
SHIT —
TA-TAK
TAK
SHIT ...
NRAAAAAGH!
TAK
TAK
TAK

TAK
TAK
RRAAGAHA!A
Perv
I'M ...
I'm a shitbug
I'M ...

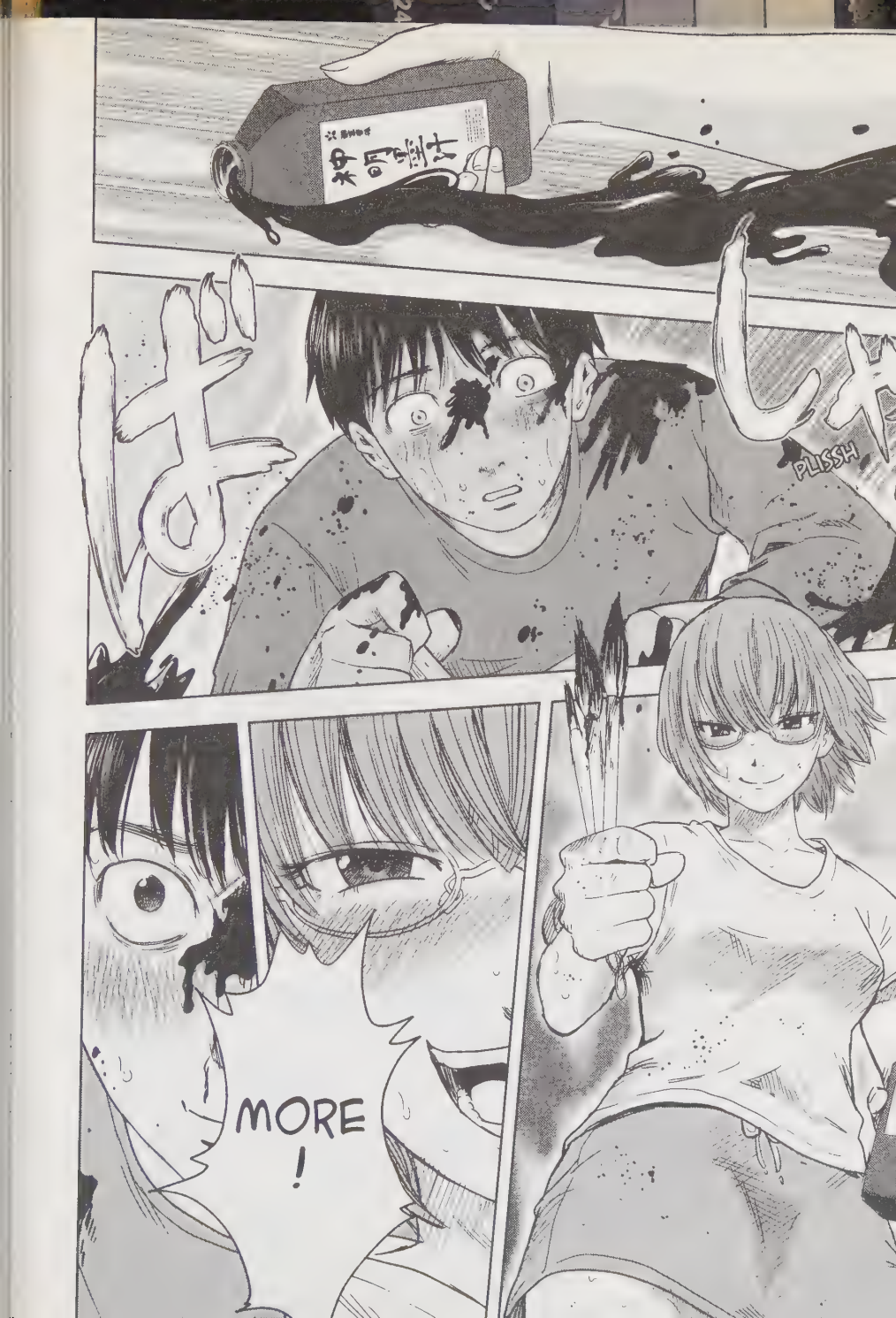

SPILL YOUR GUTS.
LET IT ALL OUT.

TURN THIS CLASS-ROOM INTO
A SEA OF SHITBUGS!

SLAMM
GRAAARGH
SHIT ... SHIT !!
FUCKING SHITBUGS !!
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

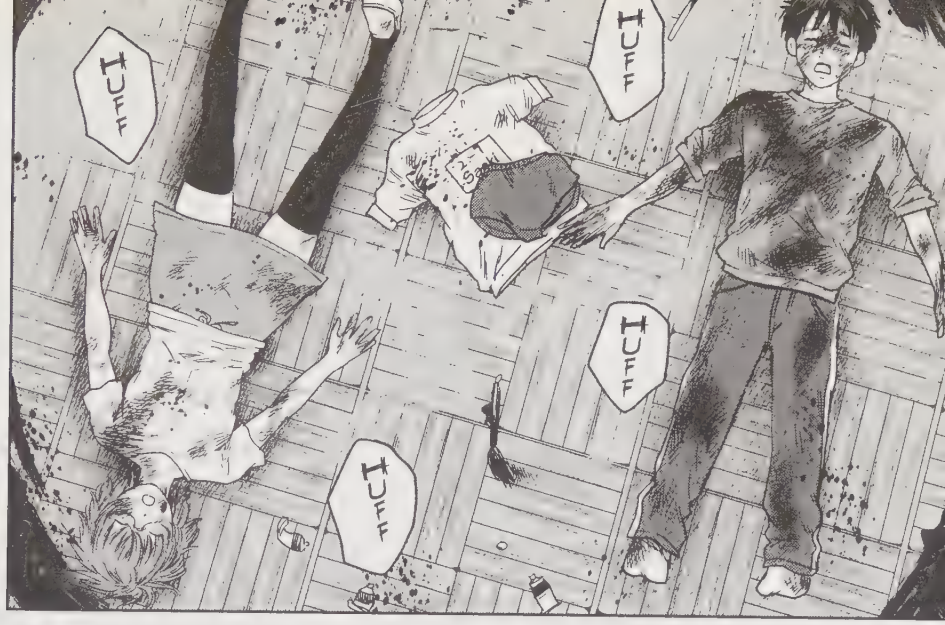
THERE !!
MORE !
THIS IS STILL TOTALLY LAME!
STUP

BAUDE-
LAIRE!
SHHHLOK
LOOK
MORE!


PLISSH
MORE!

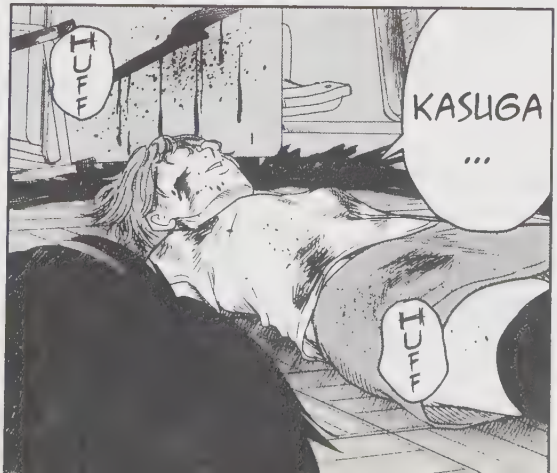
2-1
Saeki
新版 数学A

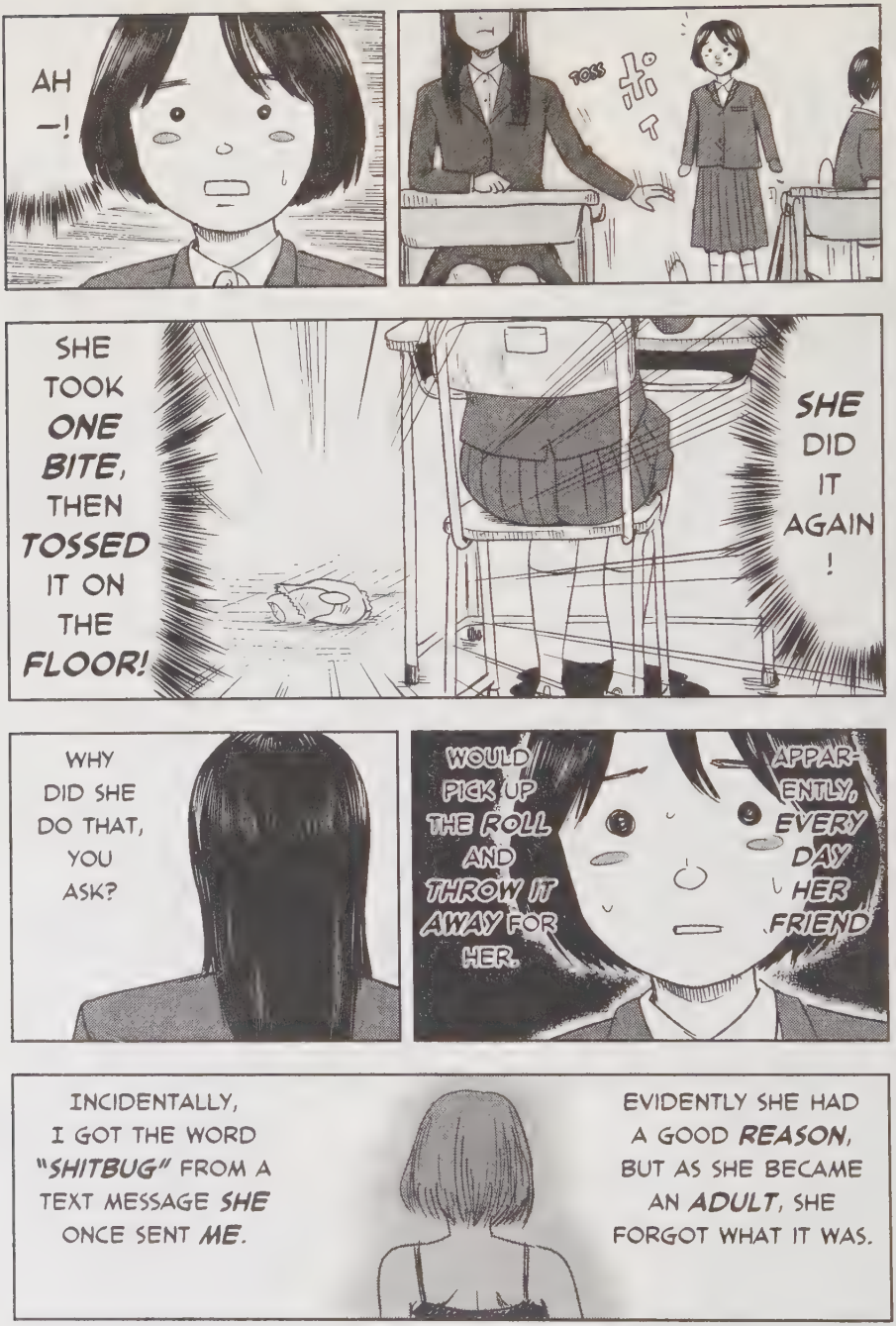
YOU REALLY ARE ONE HELL OF A PERVERT.


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

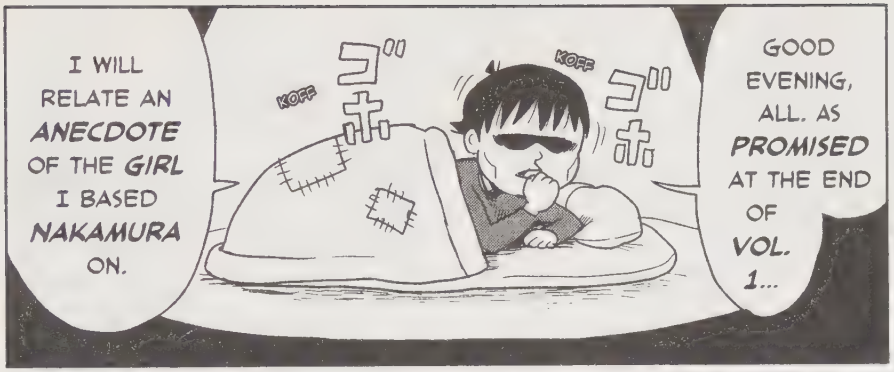
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

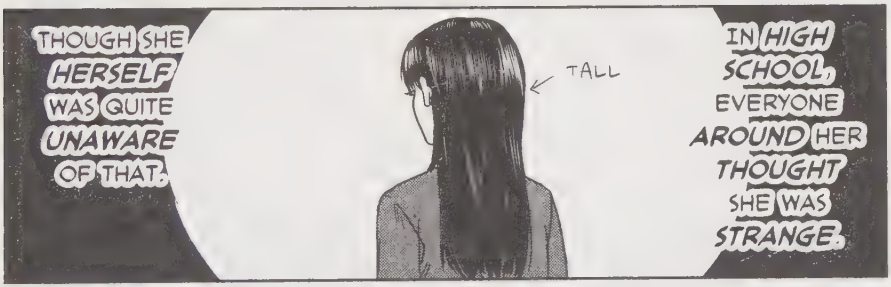
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

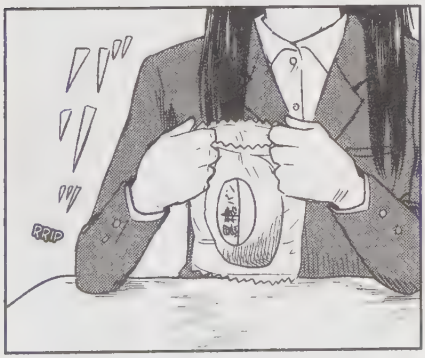

HUFF
KASUGA
...
HUFF

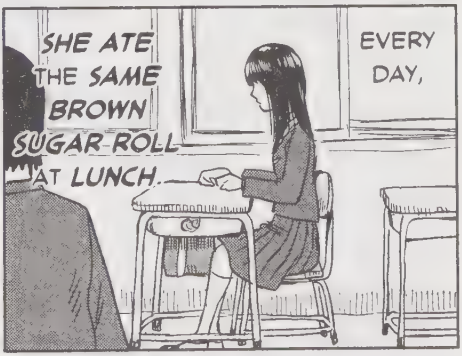


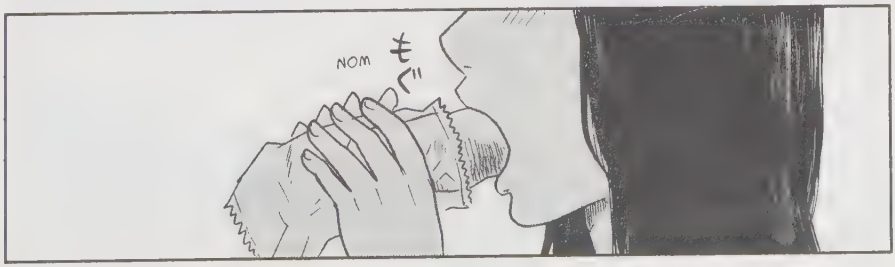
See you later!


I WILL RELATE AN ANECDOTE OF THE GIRL I BASED NAKAMURA ON.
KOFF
KOFF
GOOD EVENING, ALL. AS PROMISED AT THE END OF VOL. 1...


THOUGH SHE HERSELF WAS QUITE UNAWARE OF THAT.
TALL
IN HIGH SCHOOL, EVERYONE AROUND HER THOUGHT SHE WAS STRANGE.

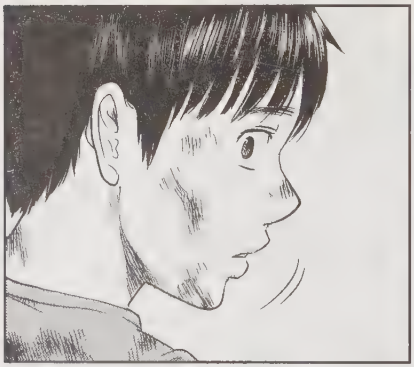

PRRIP

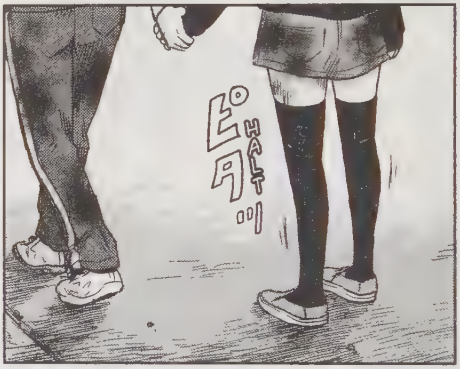

SHE ATE THE SAME BROWN SUGAR ROLL AT LUNCH.
EVERY DAY,

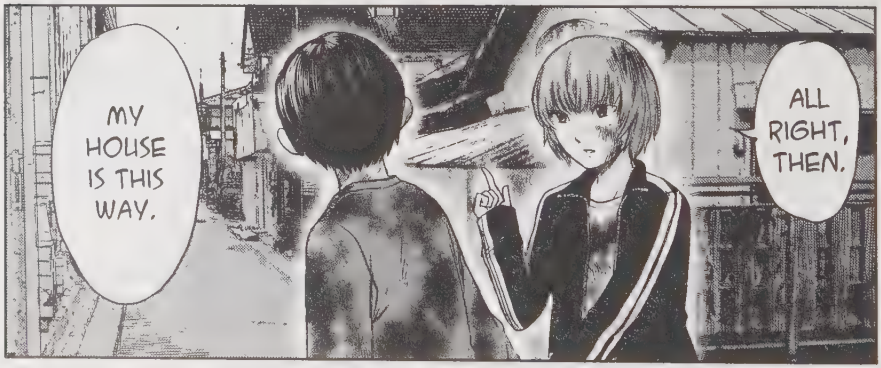

NOM

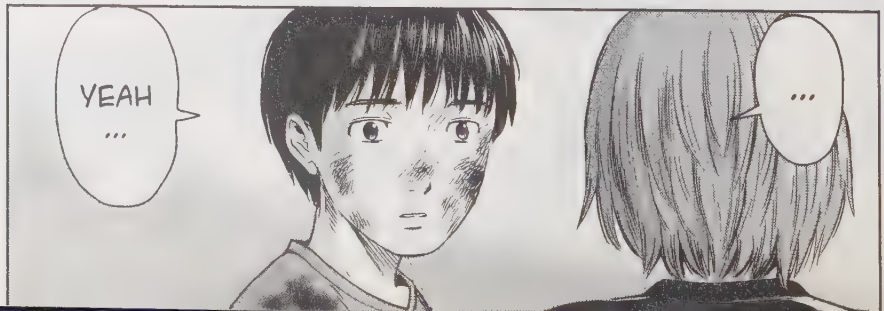
Chapter 13: A Dawn of the Heart

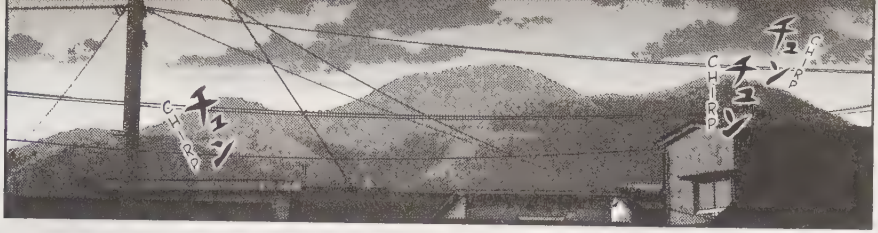
The Flowers of Evil

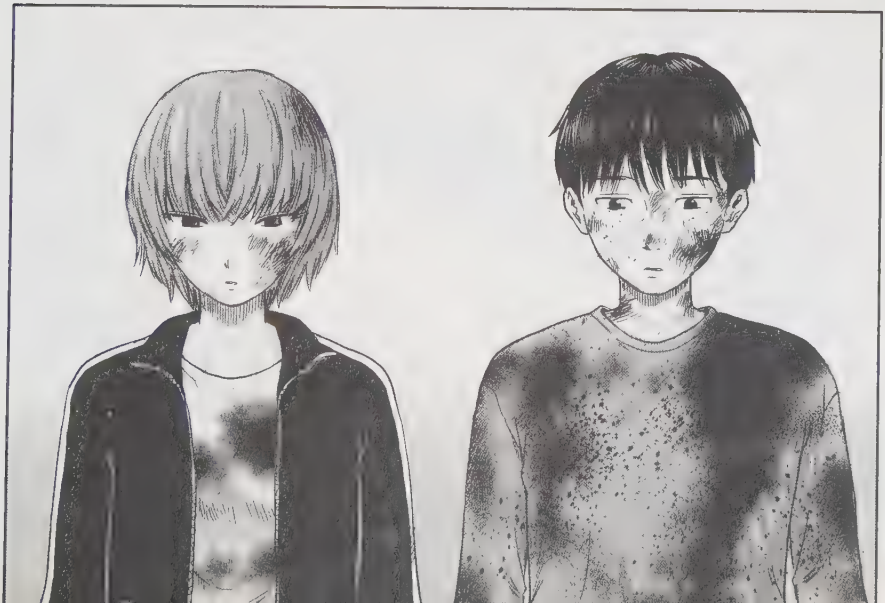


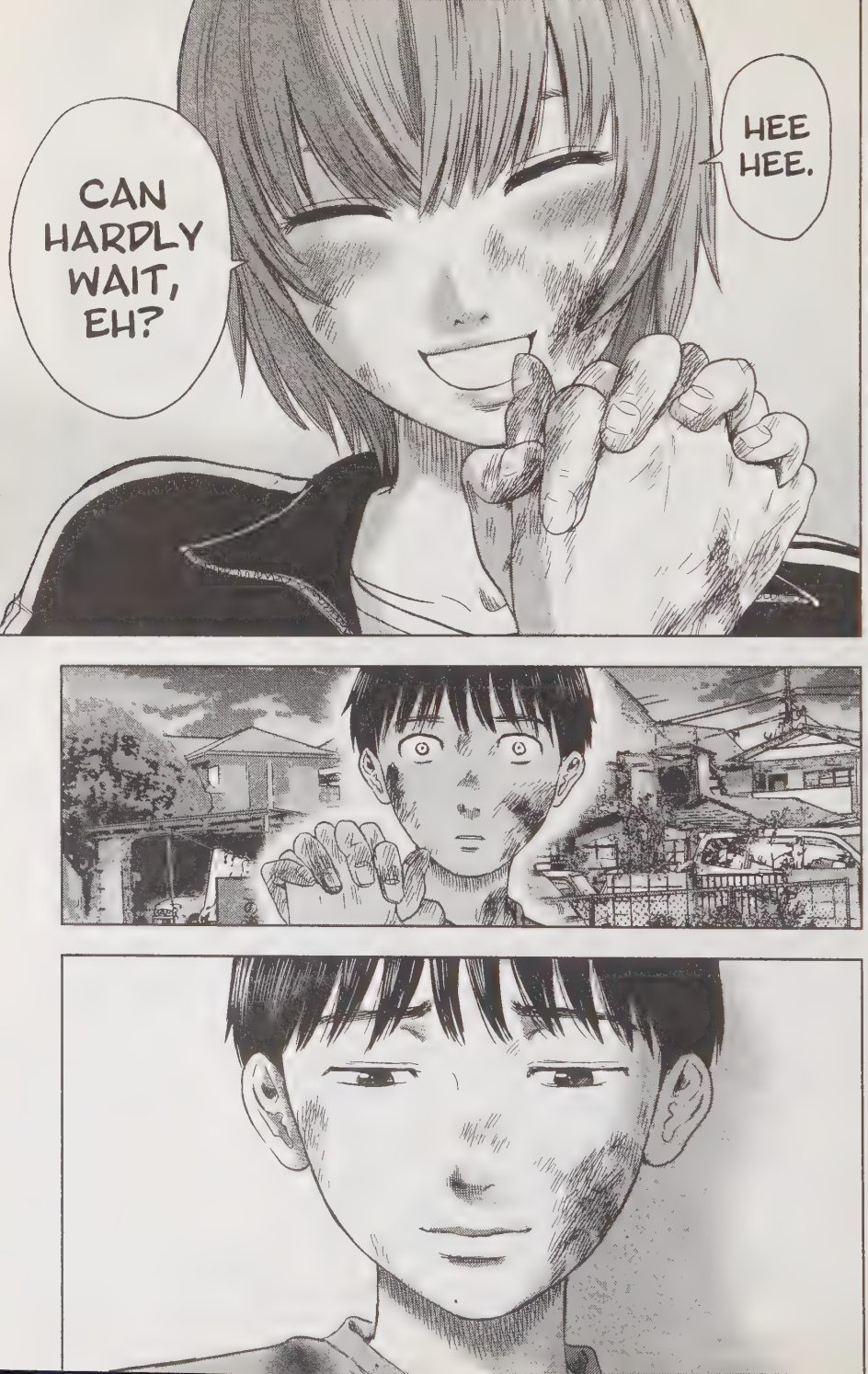

ピタ
HALT!!


MY HOUSE IS THIS WAY.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

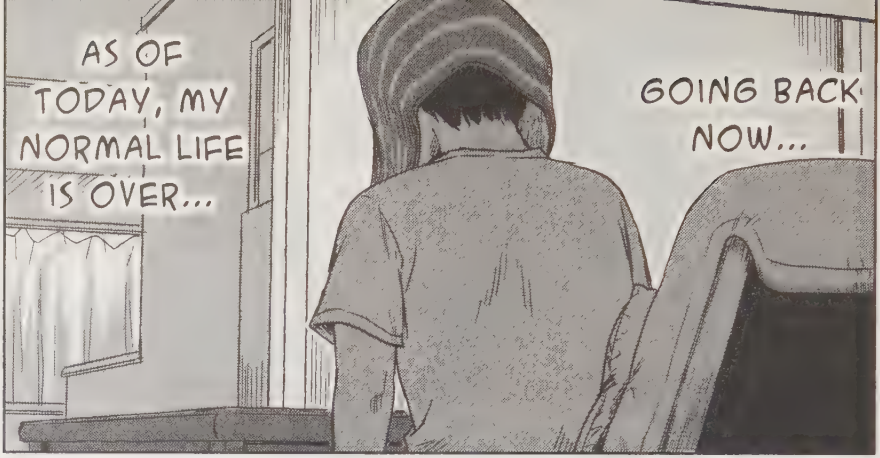

YEAH ...
...

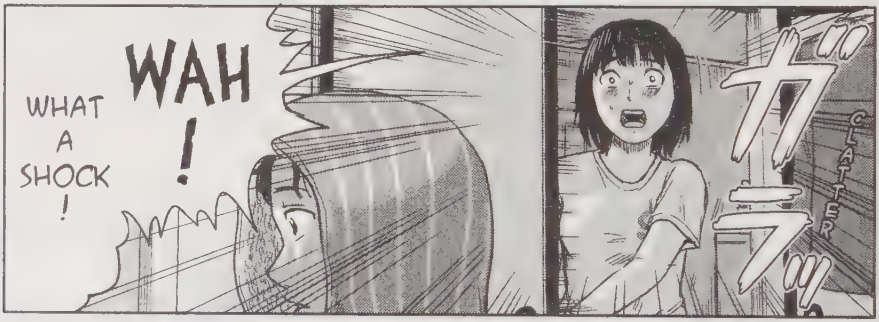

チュン
CHIRO
チュン
CHIRO
チュン
CHIRO

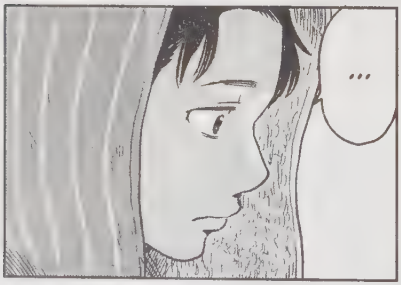


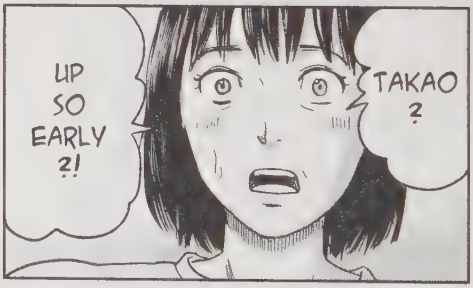

HEE HEE.
CAN HARDLY WAIT, EH?

...
HEY, NAKA-MURA.
IN A FEW HOURS ...
EVERY-BODY'S GOING TO SEE THE CLASS-ROOM.
SAEKI, TOO.
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ...
ぎゅ・
SQUEEZE


AS OF TODAY, MY NORMAL LIFE IS OVER...
GOING BACK NOW...

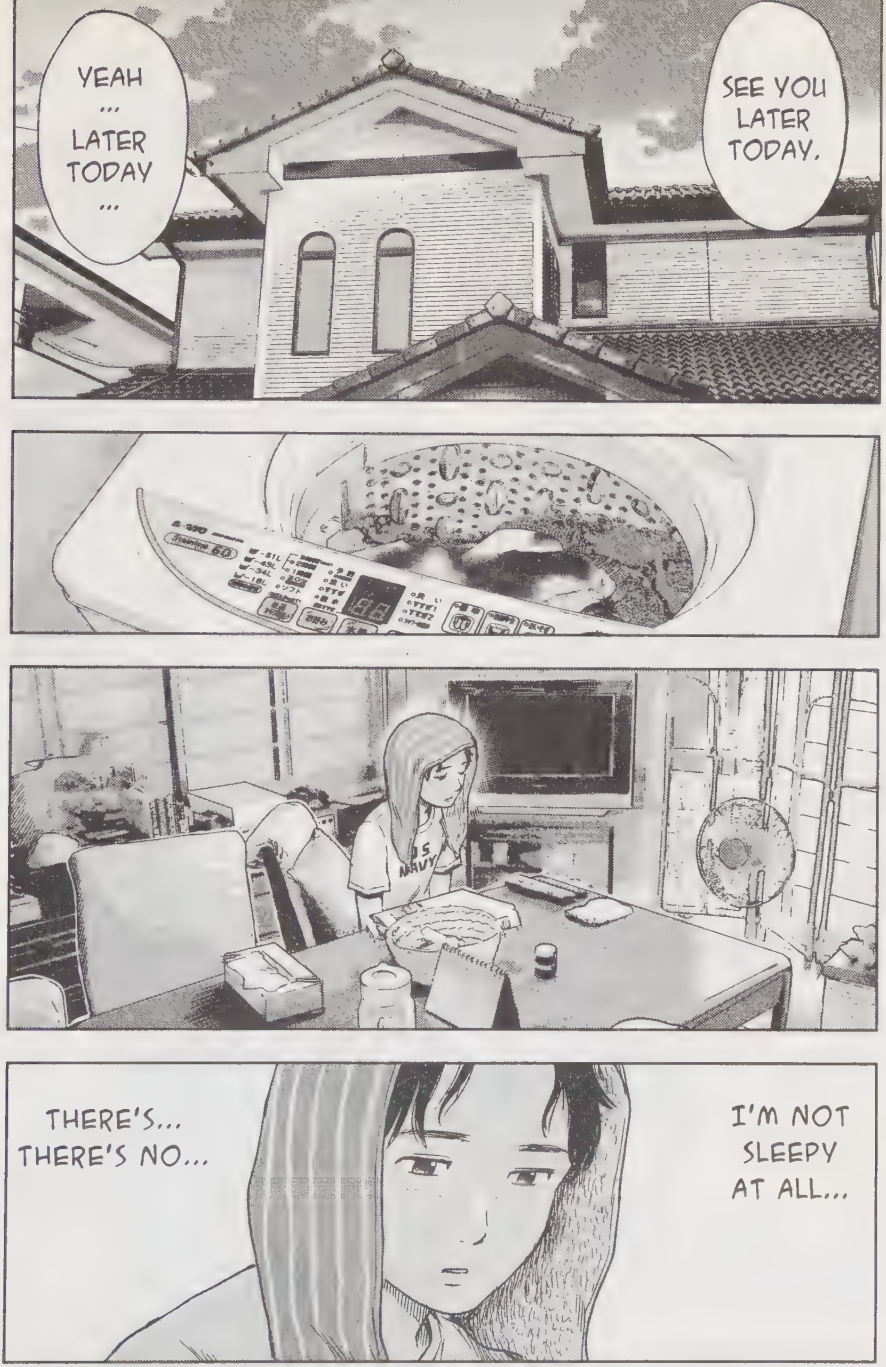

WAH !
WHAT A SHOCK !
ガラッ
CLATTER


...


UP SO EARLY ?!
TAKAO ?

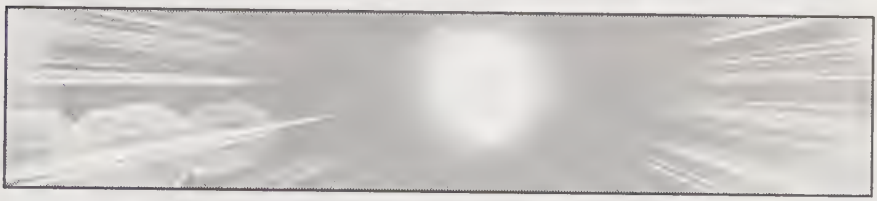
OH!

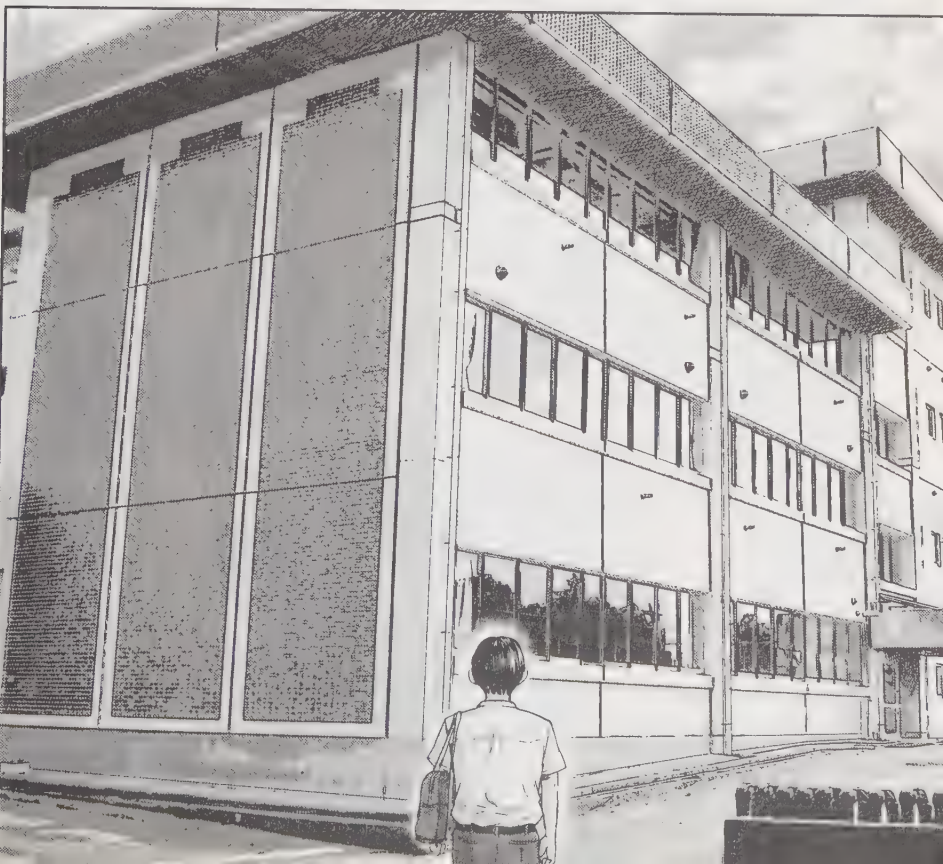
DID YOU JUST SHORTEN YOUR MOTHER'S LIFE?
Good morning, here's today's weather ...
BEEP
YOU'RE USUALLY IN BED 'TIL THE LAST MINUTE ...


YEAH ... LATER TODAY ...
SEE YOU LATER TODAY.
U.S. NAVY
THERE'S... THERE'S NO...
I'M NOT SLEEPY AT ALL...

STAY AWAY FROM OUR SCHOOL!
WHAT'RE YOU, CRAZY?
GROSS!
GET AWAY!
PER-VERT!
EW, CREEP!
WHY?
KASUGA...
Sae

I IRONED IT FOR YOU!
YOU'RE IN YOUR SUMMER UNIFORM STARTING TODAY, RIGHT?

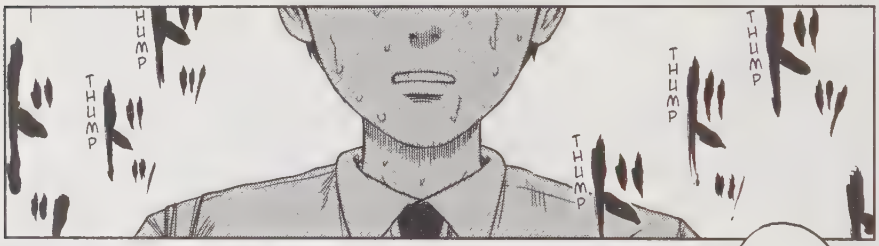


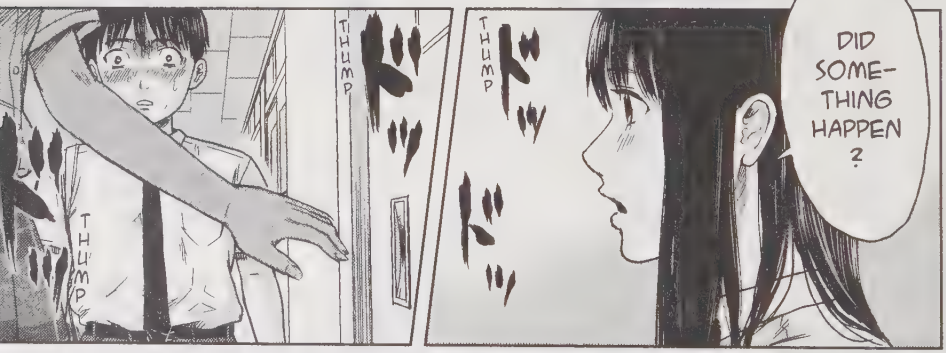


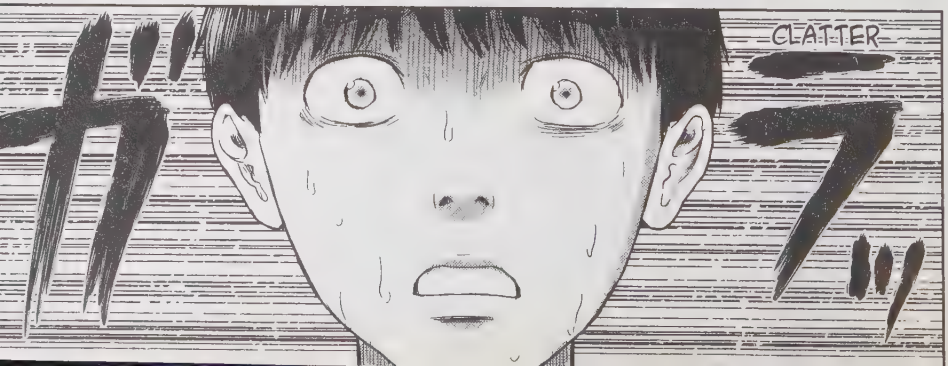
UH ...
Y-YEAH ...
IT'S SUMMER UNIFORMS FROM TODAY!
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY ...
I'M SORRY I TALKED ABOUT WEIRD STUFF... BUT I FEEL BETTER NOW.
LET'S KEEP AT IT FROM TODAY ON, TOO.
I... I-I- I-I...
SAEKI ...

I OUGHT TO SET OUT ON A JOURNEY! JUST GO AWAY!
HUFF
HUFF
IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T DO THIS!
KASUGA!
GOOD MORN-ING!

EVERY-ONE'S ALL ABUZZ.
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
WHAT COULD IT BE?


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

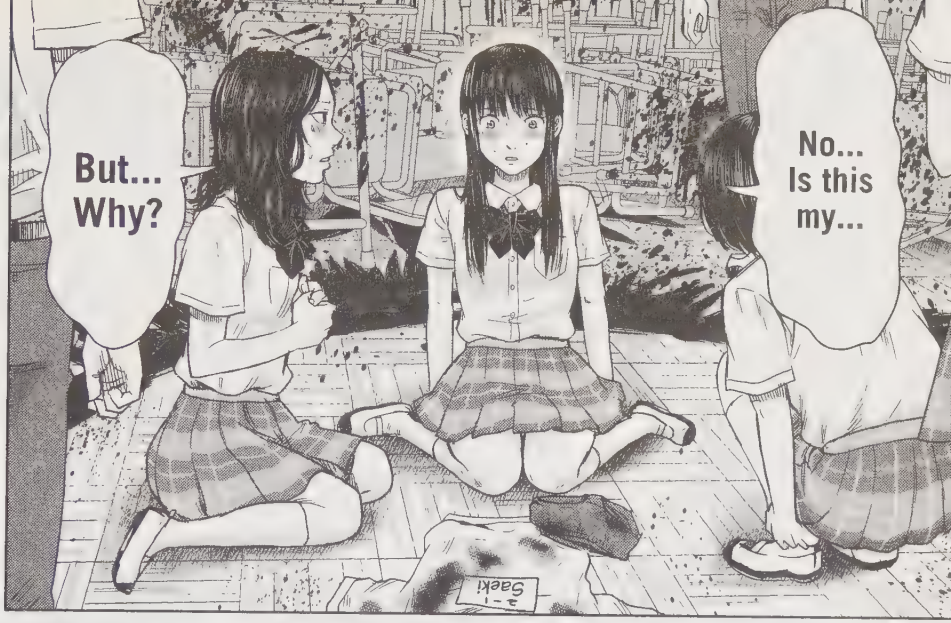

CLATTER

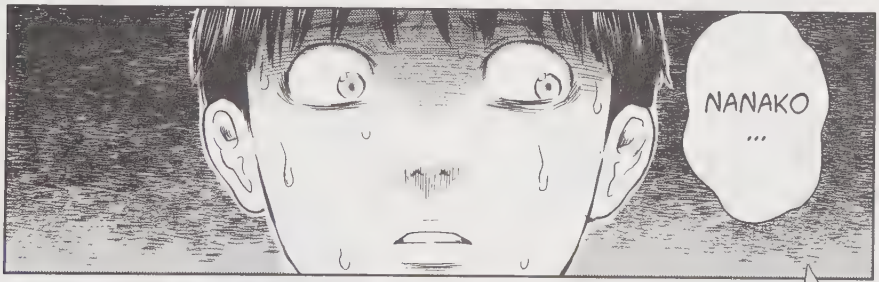
HUH?
AH!
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!
WHAT'S WRONG, KASUGA?
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
HM?
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP
ドクン
BAIBUMP

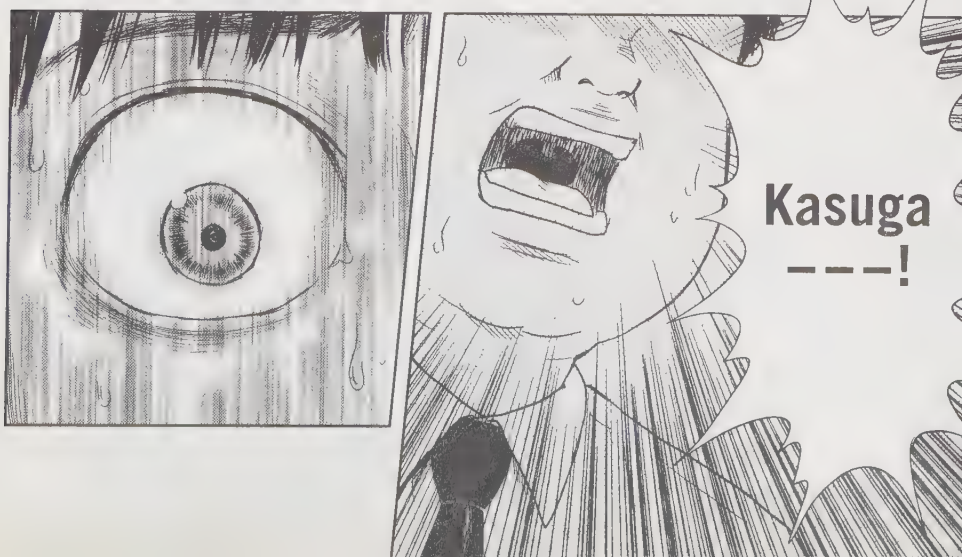
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
2-1
Saeki
HUH
...?

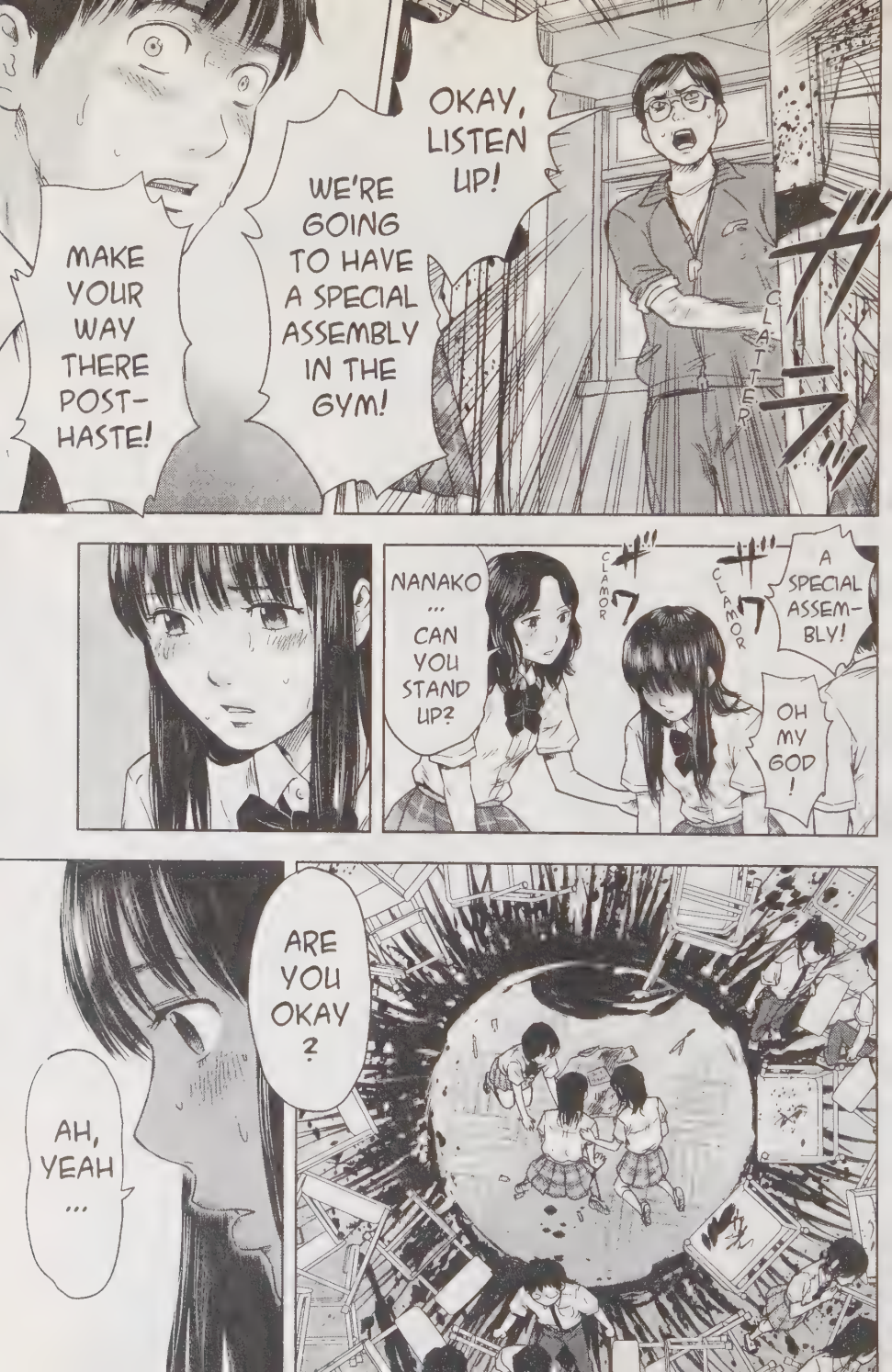
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
WHAT IS THIS ...
...!
NANA-KO...

That pervert showed up again! I'm freaking out!
This is crazy, man! The place is trashed! Look!
HUH?
...
THINK ABOUT NANAKO A BIT!
WHA?! WHY?
COULD YOU STOP YELLING?!
GOD, YAMADA!
WHA?
HUH?

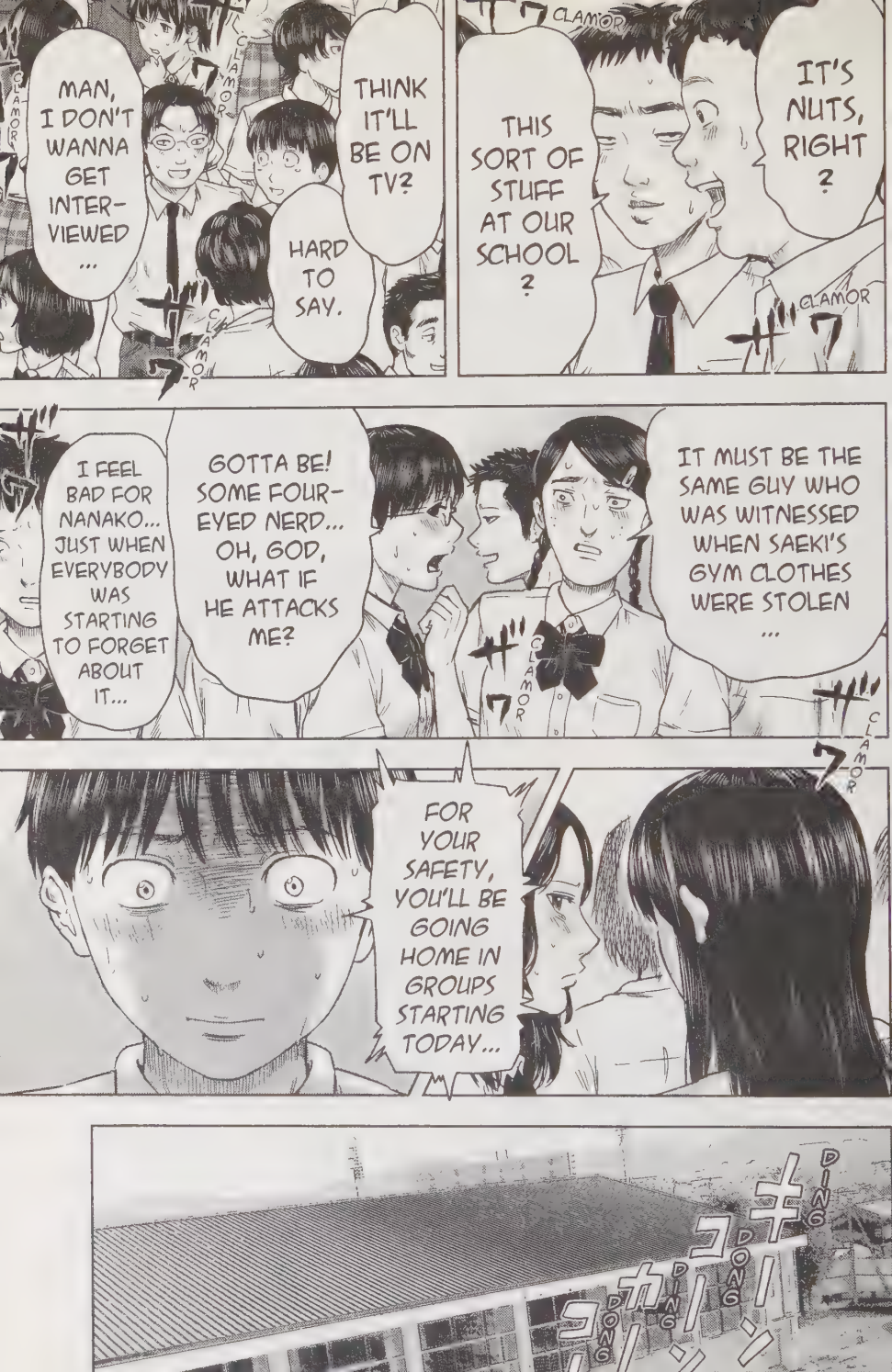

But... Why?
No... Is this my...
Saeki


NANAKO ...


Kasuga ---!


OKAY, LISTEN UP!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM!
MAKE YOUR WAY THERE POST-HASTE!
CLATTER
A SPECIAL ASSEM-BLY!
CLAMOR
OH MY GOD!
CLAMOR
NANAKO ... CAN YOU STAND UP?
ARE YOU OKAY?
AH, YEAH ...

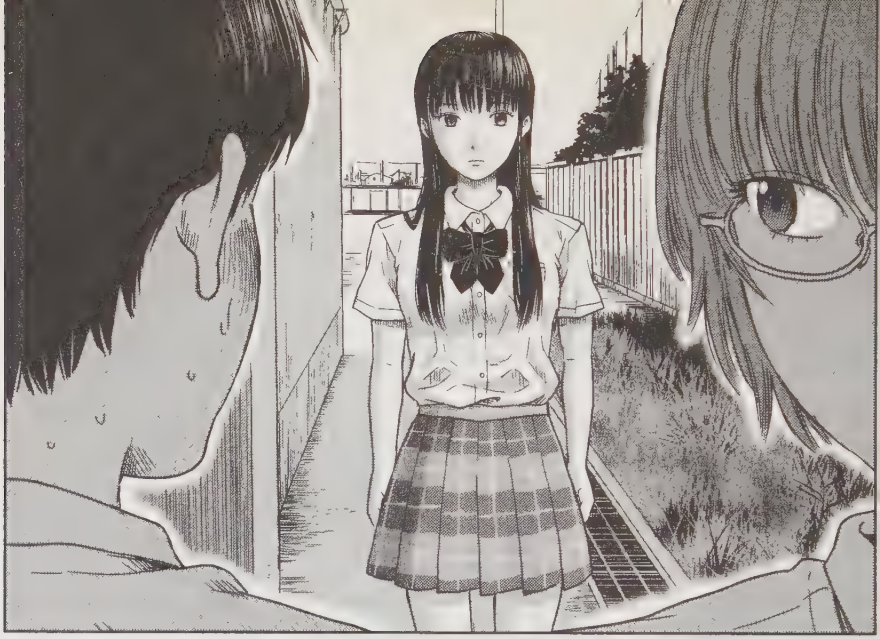
AH ...!
IT'S BEEN ERASED WITH INK!
MY NAME ...
ペろっ
POINT

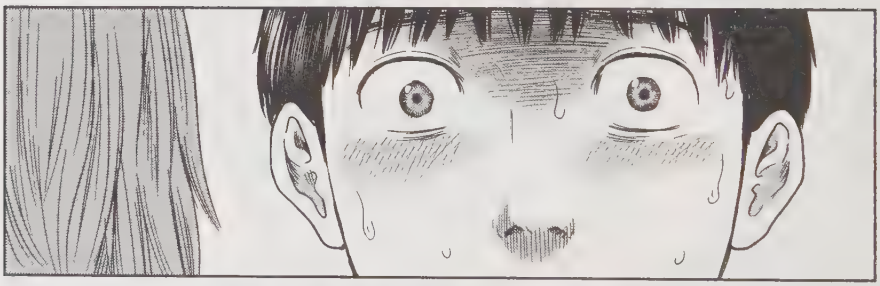

MAN, I DON'T WANNA GET INTER-VIEWED ...
THINK IT'LL BE ON TV?
HARD TO SAY.
CLAMOR
THIS SORT OF STUFF AT OUR SCHOOL?
IT'S NUTS, RIGHT?
I FEEL BAD FOR NANAKO... JUST WHEN EVERYBODY WAS STARTING TO FORGET ABOUT IT...
GOTTA BE! SOME FOUR-EYED NERD... OH, GOD, WHAT IF HE ATTACKS ME?
IT MUST BE THE SAME GUY WHO WAS WITNESSED WHEN SAEKI'S GYM CLOTHES WERE STOLEN ...
FOR YOUR SAFETY, YOU'LL BE GOING HOME IN GROUPS STARTING TODAY...
DING DONG
キーン コーン カーン コーン

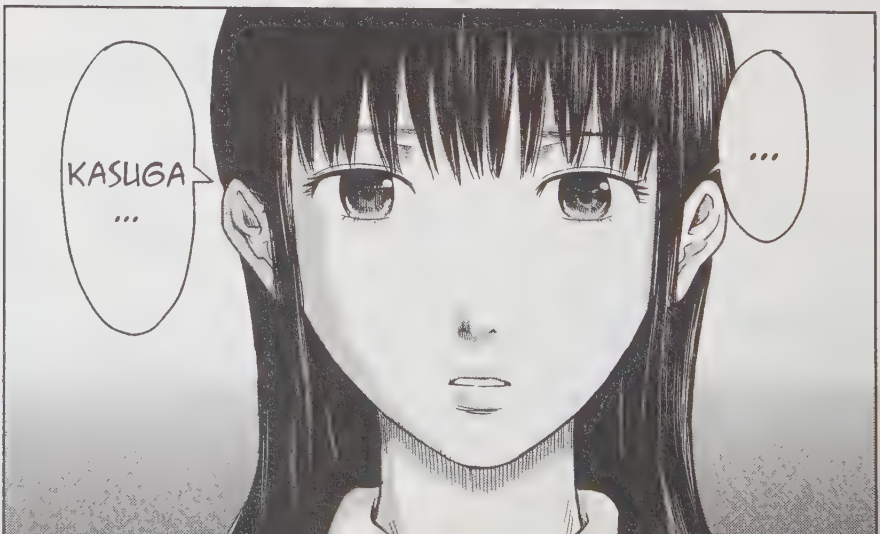
UH, BEFORE TODAY THE 2-1 CLASS-ROOM
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
STUDENT PROPERTY, INCLUDING TEXTBOOKS, SUFFERED DAMAGE AND...
WAS HEAVILY VANDAL-IZED...
Quiet, all of you !
Quiet !
CLAMOR

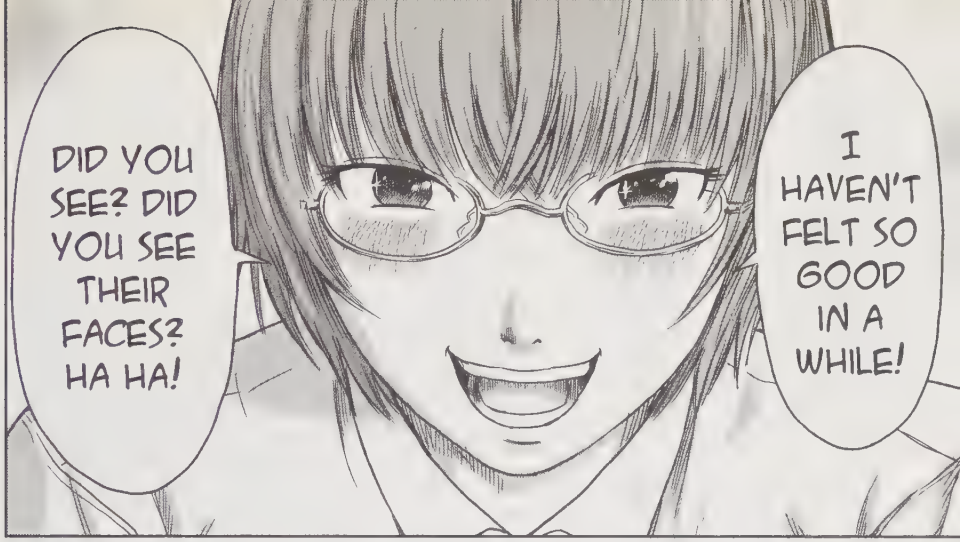
ARE YOU RELIEVED THAT YOU WEREN'T FOUND OUT?
NAKA-MURA ...
PFFF... HA HA... HA HA HA HA!
PFF PFFF ...

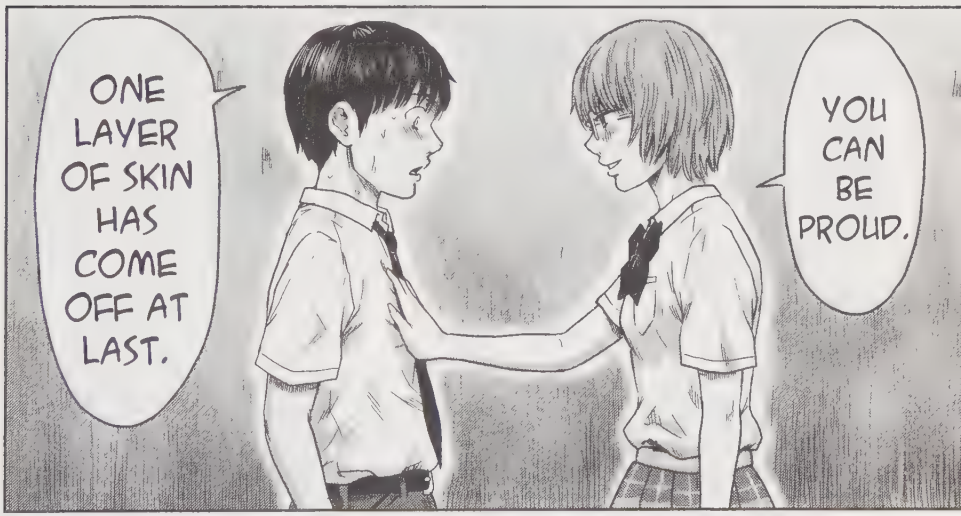
キーンコーン
DING DONG
カーンコーン…
DING DONG
UGH... UH...
GUH...
GYAHAHA
ギャハハ
RRRAA
おらーっ
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
KASUGA.

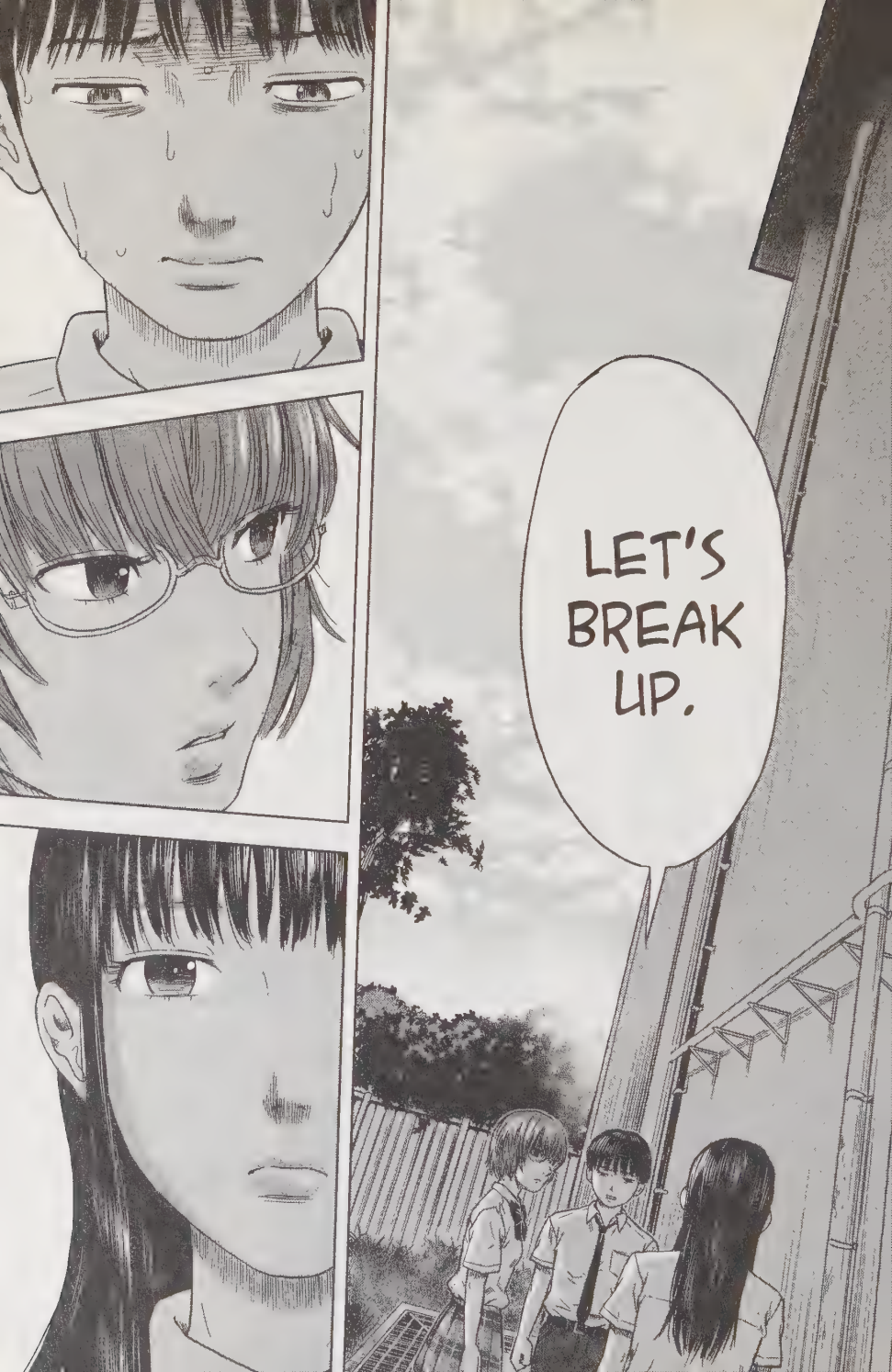


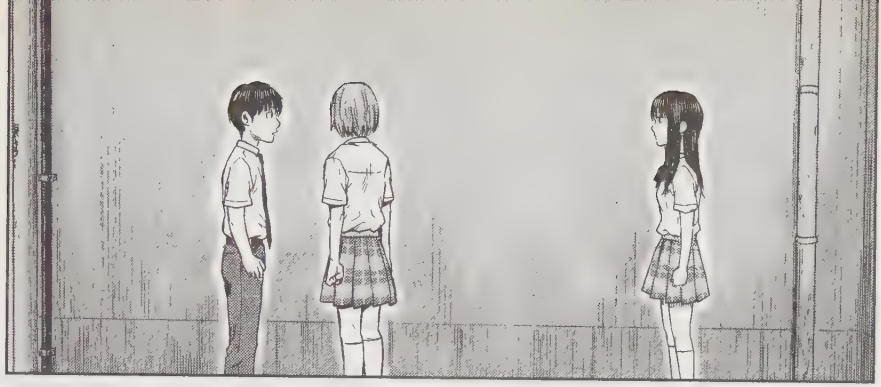


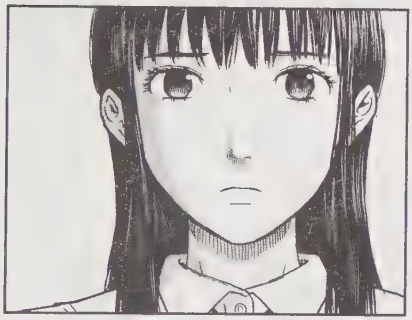

KASUGA
...
...

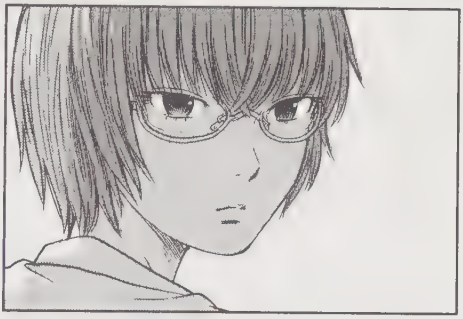

DID YOU SEE? DID YOU SEE THEIR FACES? HA HA!
I HAVEN'T FELT SO GOOD IN A WHILE!

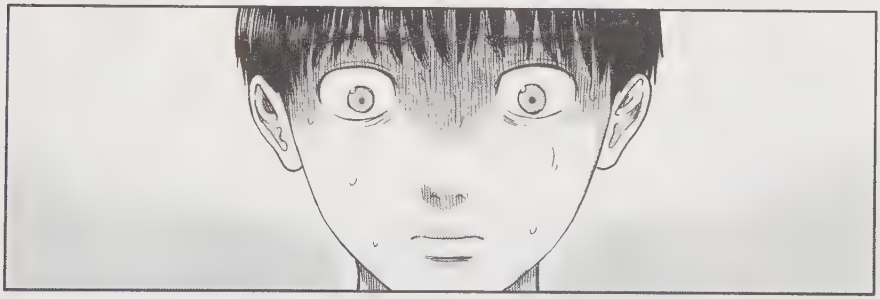

ONE LAYER OF SKIN HAS COME OFF AT LAST.
YOU CAN BE PROUD.


LET'S BREAK UP.

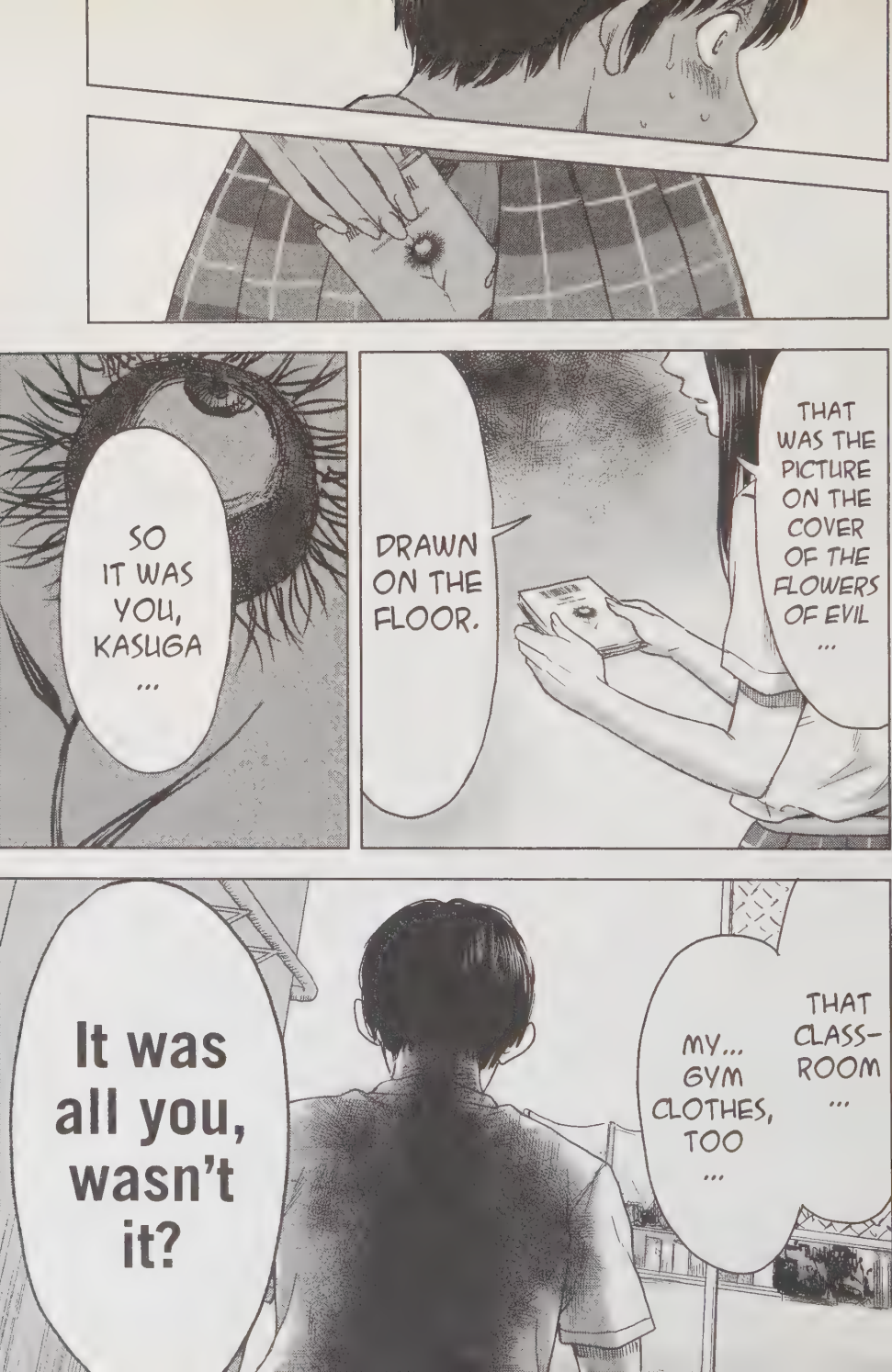


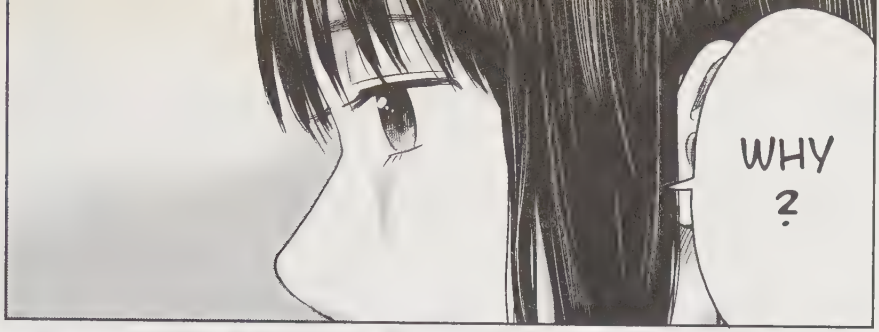


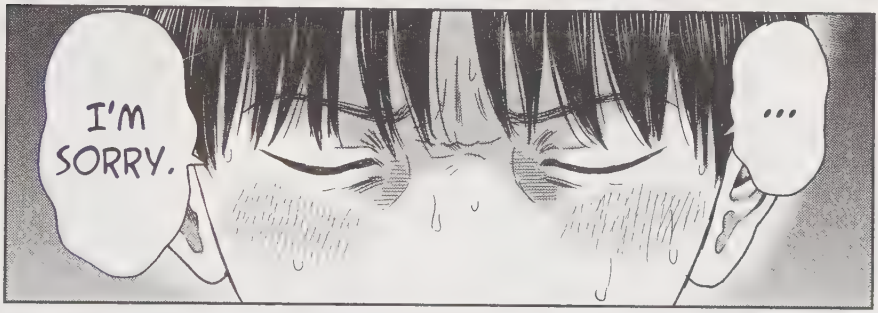


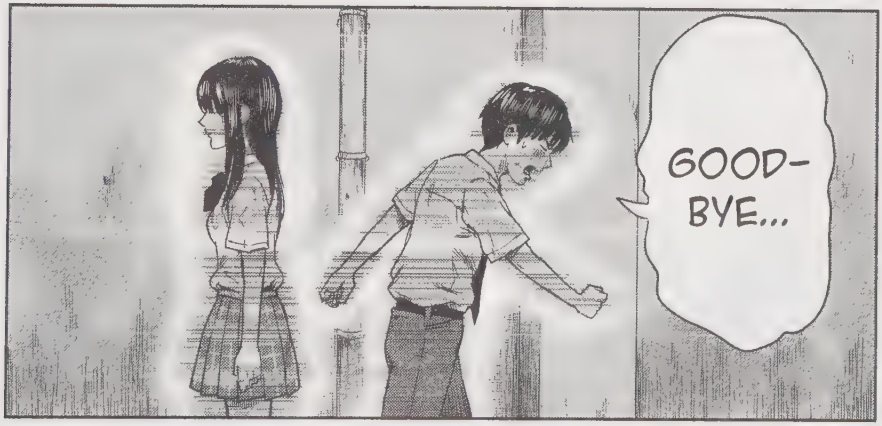


SAEKI...
...

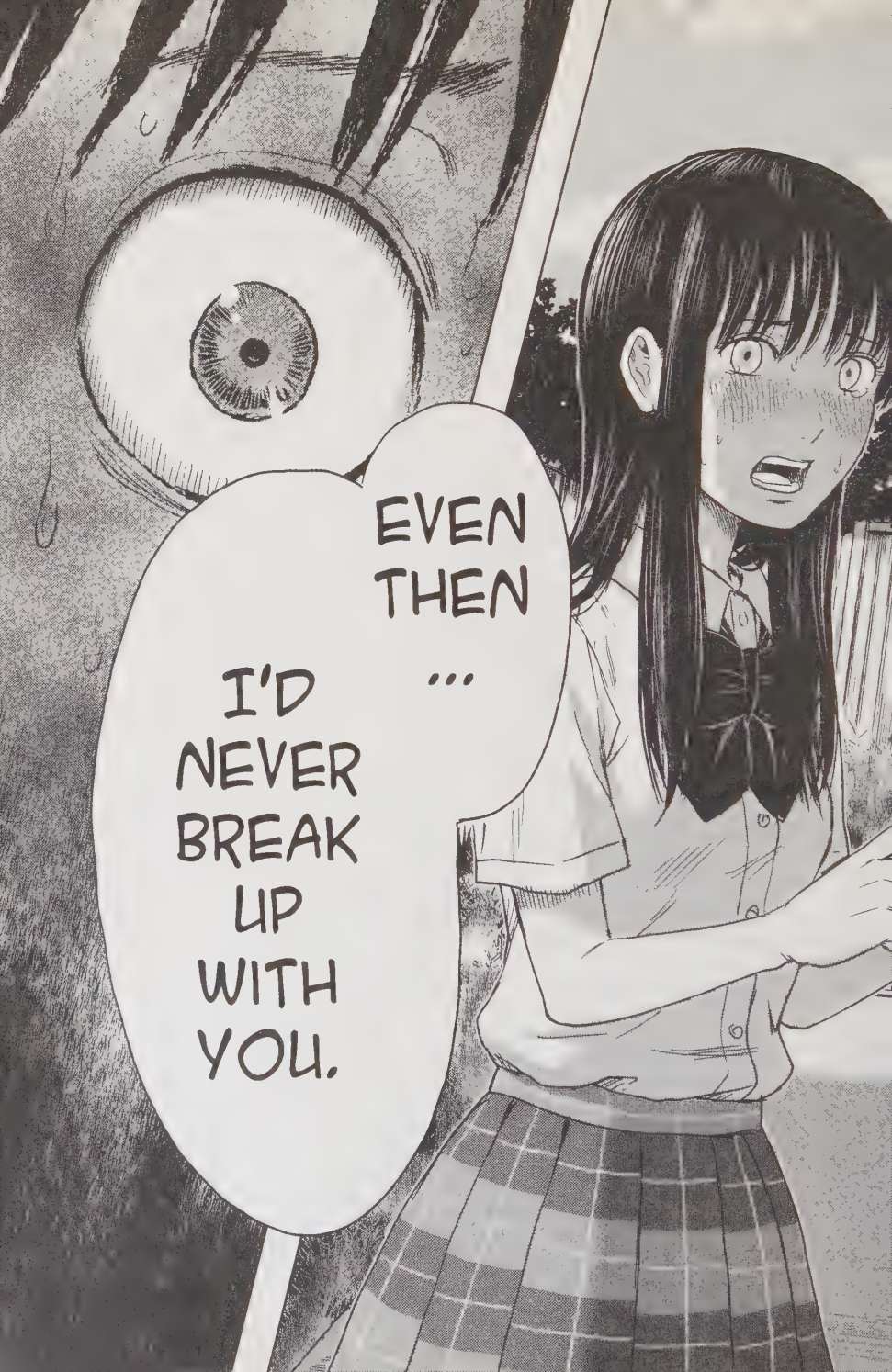

THAT WAS THE PICTURE ON THE COVER OF THE FLOWERS OF EVIL ...
DRAWN ON THE FLOOR.
SO IT WAS YOU, KASUGA ...
THAT CLASS-ROOM ...
MY... GYM CLOTHES, TOO ...
It was all you, wasn't it?


WHY ?


I'M SORRY.
...


GOOD-BYE...

Kasuga!


EVEN THEN ...
I'D NEVER BREAK UP WITH YOU.

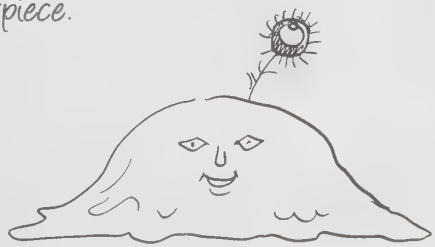
I WON'T BREAK UP WITH YOU.

Chapter 14: Melancholy

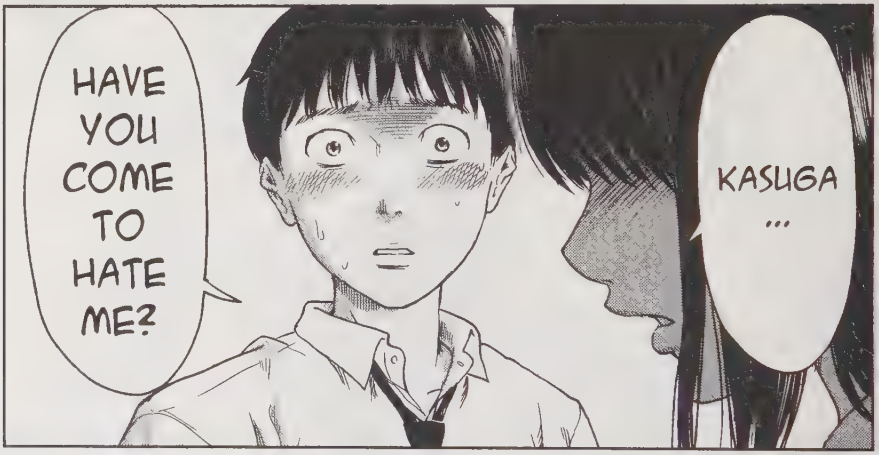
Afterword ①

There's a movie called *Don't Deliver Us from Evil*.
It's a 1971 French film from director Joel Séria. I learned about it from film critic Tomohiro Machiyama, who wrote a short comment on the cover of Vol. 2 of this series.
I was unacquainted with the film when I was writing this manga, and I wasn't particularly conscious of it at the time, but now that I think about it, I see that I was pretty thoroughly influenced by Mr. Machiyama's spiel.
The girls worship Baudelaire and Lautréamont, create a kingdom of evil all for themselves, and fall into ruin, and I overlaid my own youth on theirs.

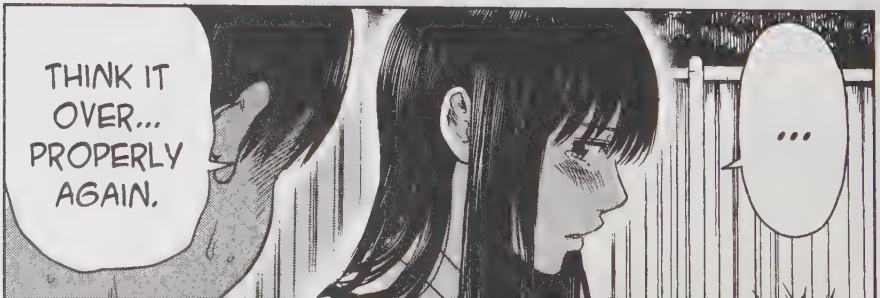
When I watched the movie, I was blown away by the nervous rhythm of initial drives on full throttle and the beauty of its last scene. It's a masterpiece.
Erotic, too.



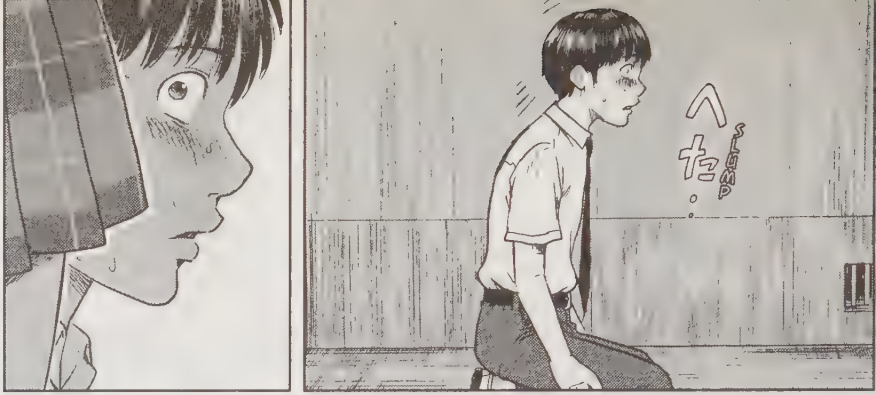
I... BUT, BUT!
BUT, I...

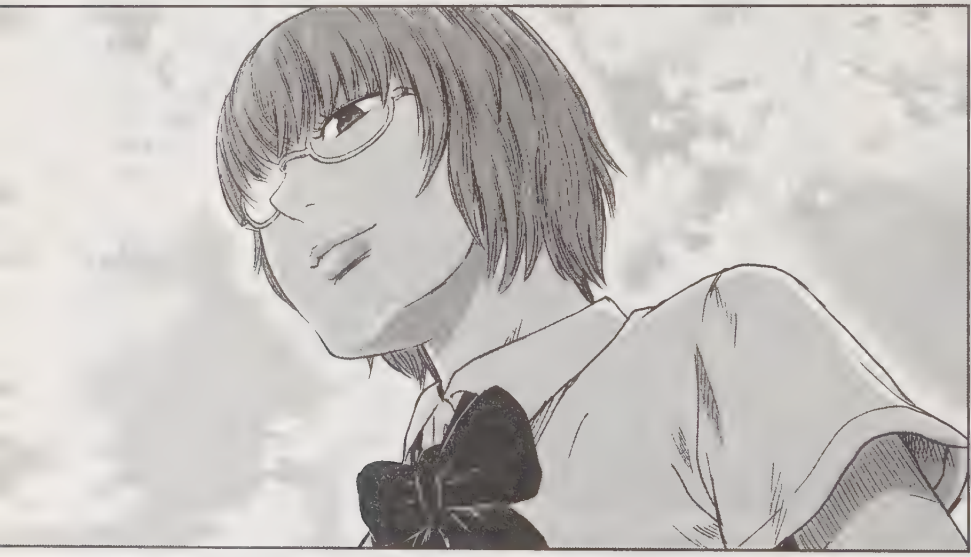

HAVE YOU COME TO HATE ME?
KASUGA ...

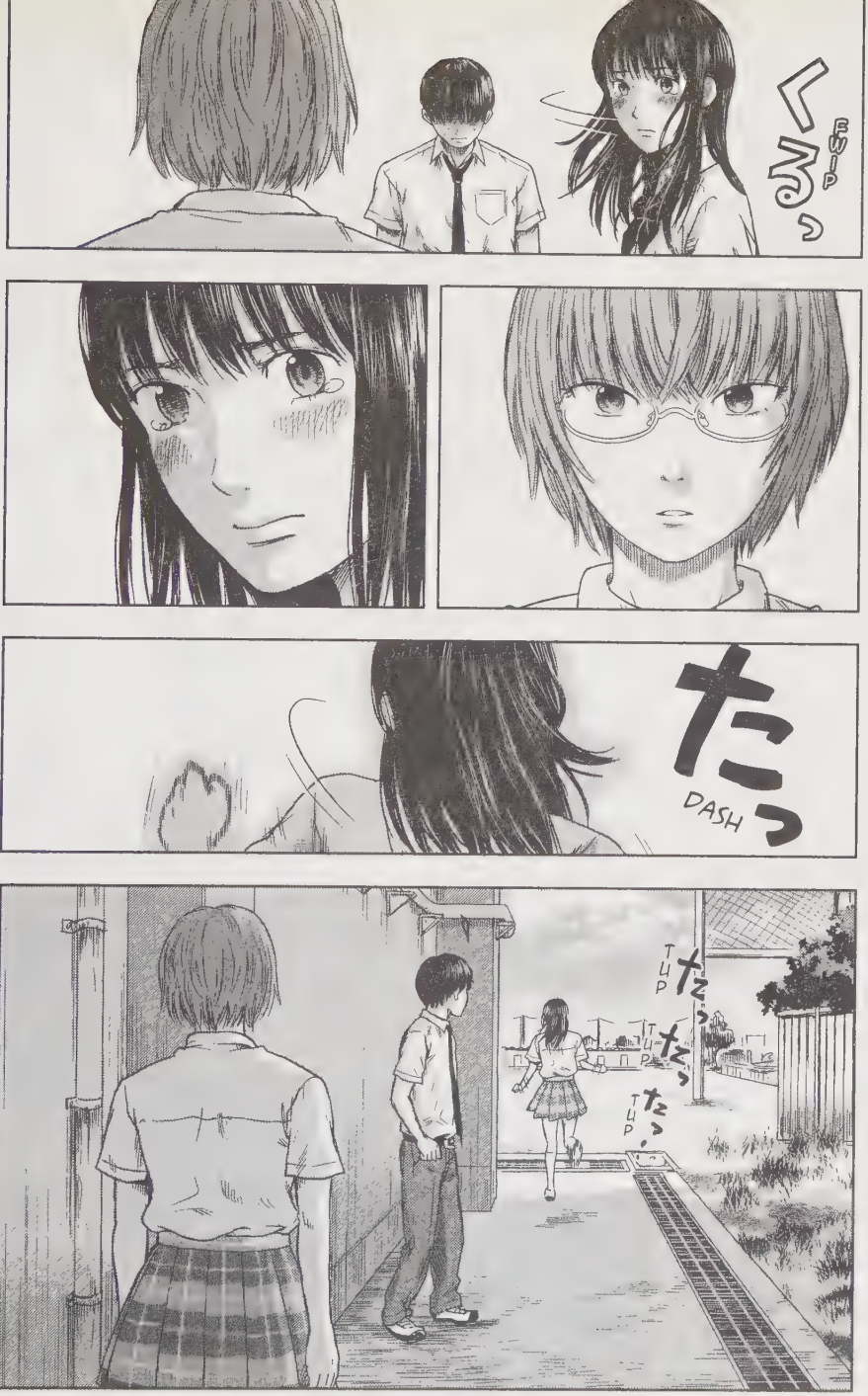
SHAKE


THINK IT OVER... PROPERLY AGAIN.
...

I'D NEVER BREAK UP WITH YOU.
I WON'T BREAK UP WITH YOU.


へた。

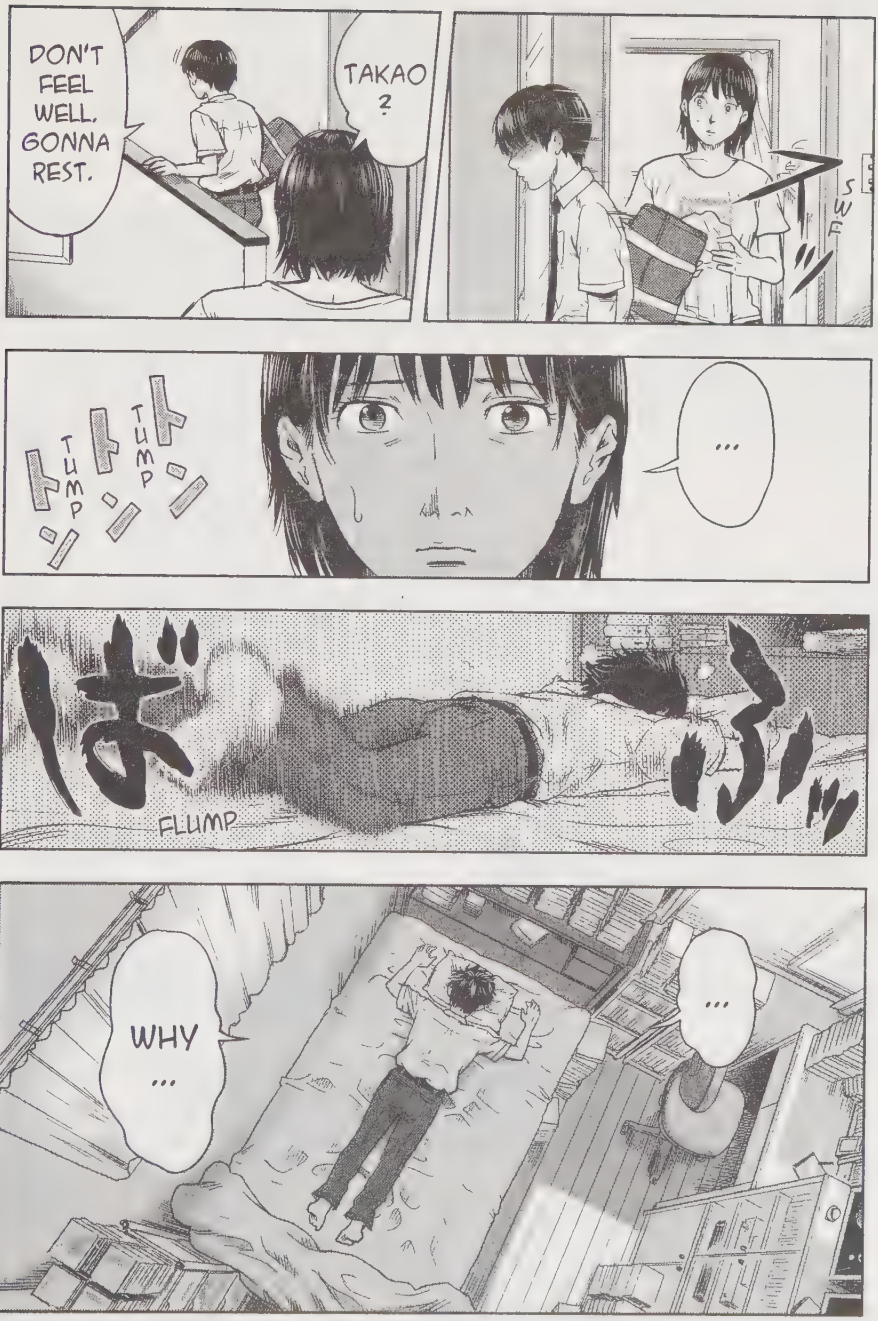



くるっ
TURN
たっ
DASH
TUP
たっ
TUP
たっ
TUP
たっ
TUP

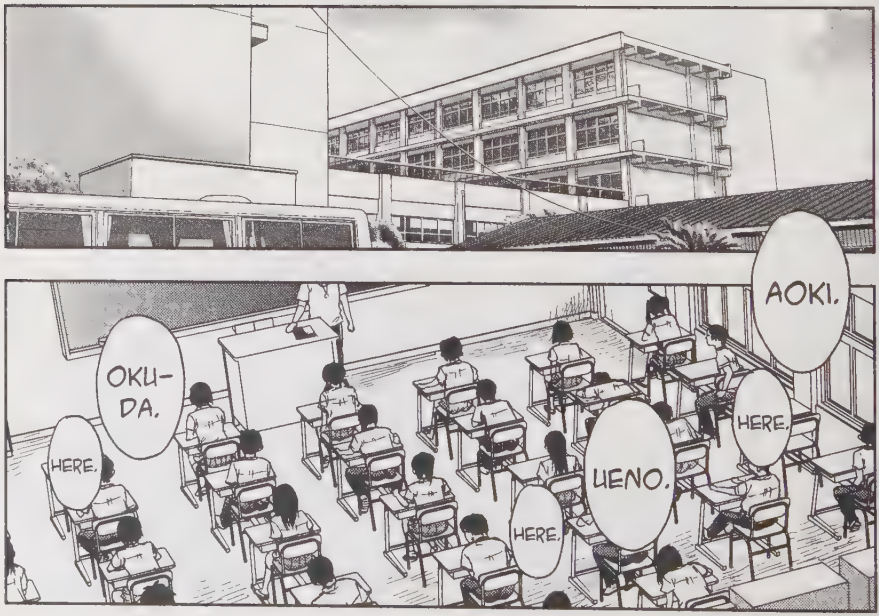
C'mon out, you perv!
バタン
SLAM
WERE YOU ALL RIGHT AT SCHOOL? I HEARD THAT DEGENERATE SHOWED UP AGAIN!
OH, TAKAO, WELCOME HOME!
WHAT'S UP WITH THEIR SECURITY, I WONDER? WHO CAN STUDY LIKE THAT?
GOSH, IT'S JUST SO SCARY.

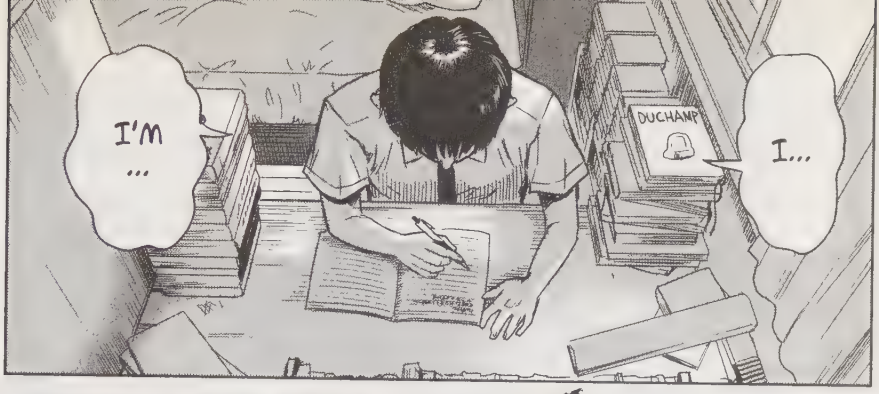
KINDA MAKES ME TENSE!
FIRST TIME WE'RE GOING HOME IN GROUPS, AIN'T IT?
DAMN... I BET MINE WILL, TOO.
Hey, stay on the side-walk!
MY FOLKS WILL TELL ME NOT TO GO OUT.
GOD, WHAT A PAIN!
I WONDER WHAT THOSE GYM CLOTHES WENT THROUGH!
HEH, MORON.
SUCKS TO BE SAEKI ...
HA HA, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
HEY, SHOULD I RUN HIM DOWN WITH MY AIR GUN?
BA-BA-BA-BA-BLAM!

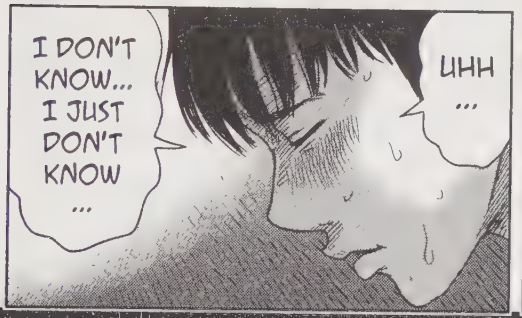
SAEKI...
WHY... DOES SHE NOT HATE ME?
I'M THIS KIND OF PERSON.
WHEN...
TWIST
SKRITCH
Dear Saeki,
I just can't with you. I
SKRITCH
CLATTER
CLATTER

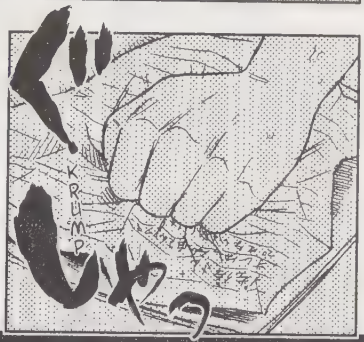

DON'T FEEL WELL. GONNA REST.
TAKAO ?
SWF
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
...
FLUMP
WHY ...
...

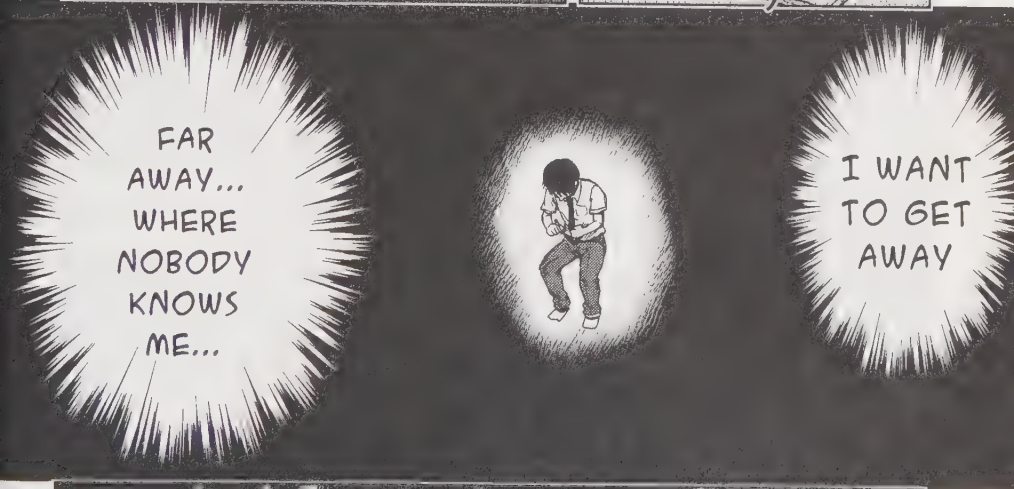
UH
...
NGGH
...
UGH
...
URR
...

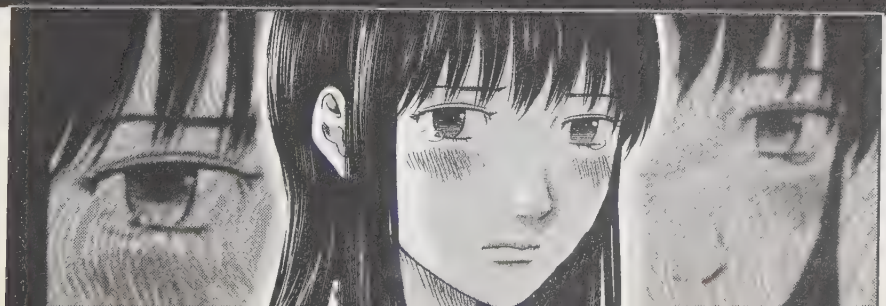

AOKI.
OKU-
DA.
HERE.
HERE.
UENO.
HERE.


I'M ...
DUCHAMP
I...

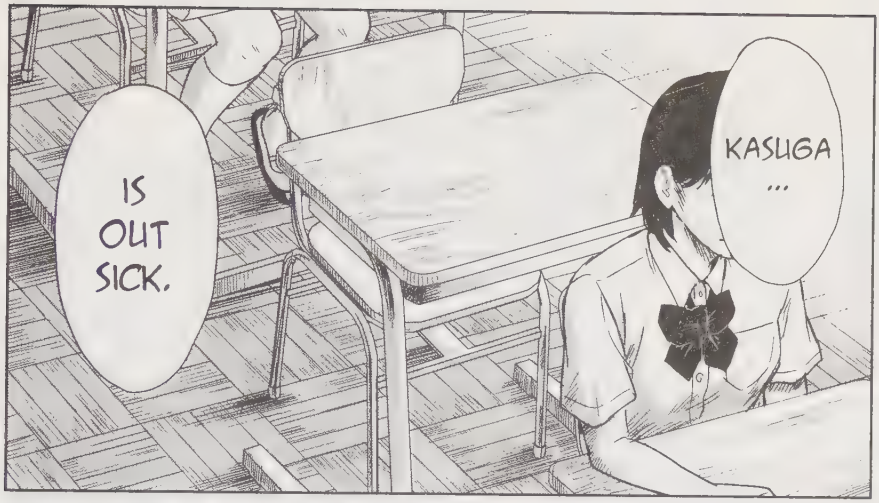

I DON'T KNOW... I JUST DON'T KNOW ...
UHH ...

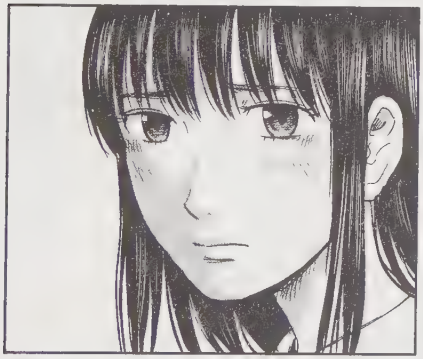

KRUMP

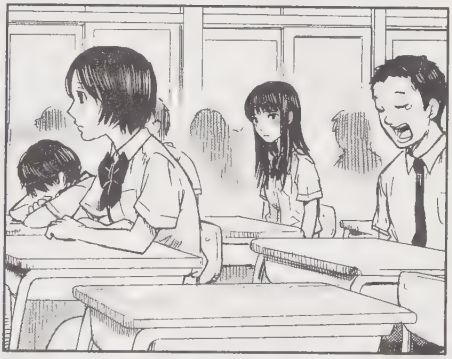

FAR AWAY... WHERE NOBODY KNOWS ME...
I WANT TO GET AWAY

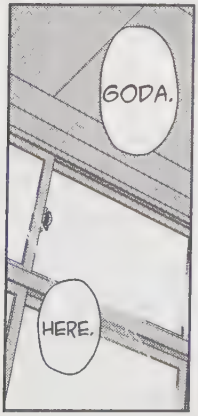


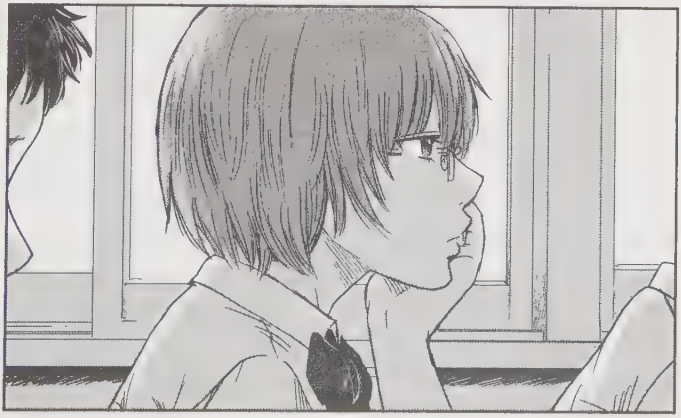
FEELS WEIRD TO BE IN A NEW ROOM.
YEAH, REALLY.
ザワ CLAMOR
HEY, I HEAR THEY'RE CLEANING UP OUR CLASS-ROOM!
LET'S GO SEE!
ザワ CLAMOR
ザワ CLAMOR
ゴバー!.. FLUSSH
ギ.. KREAK
ゴボボ.. FLUSH
じゃー!.. FSSSSHH
SQUEEE
きゅっ

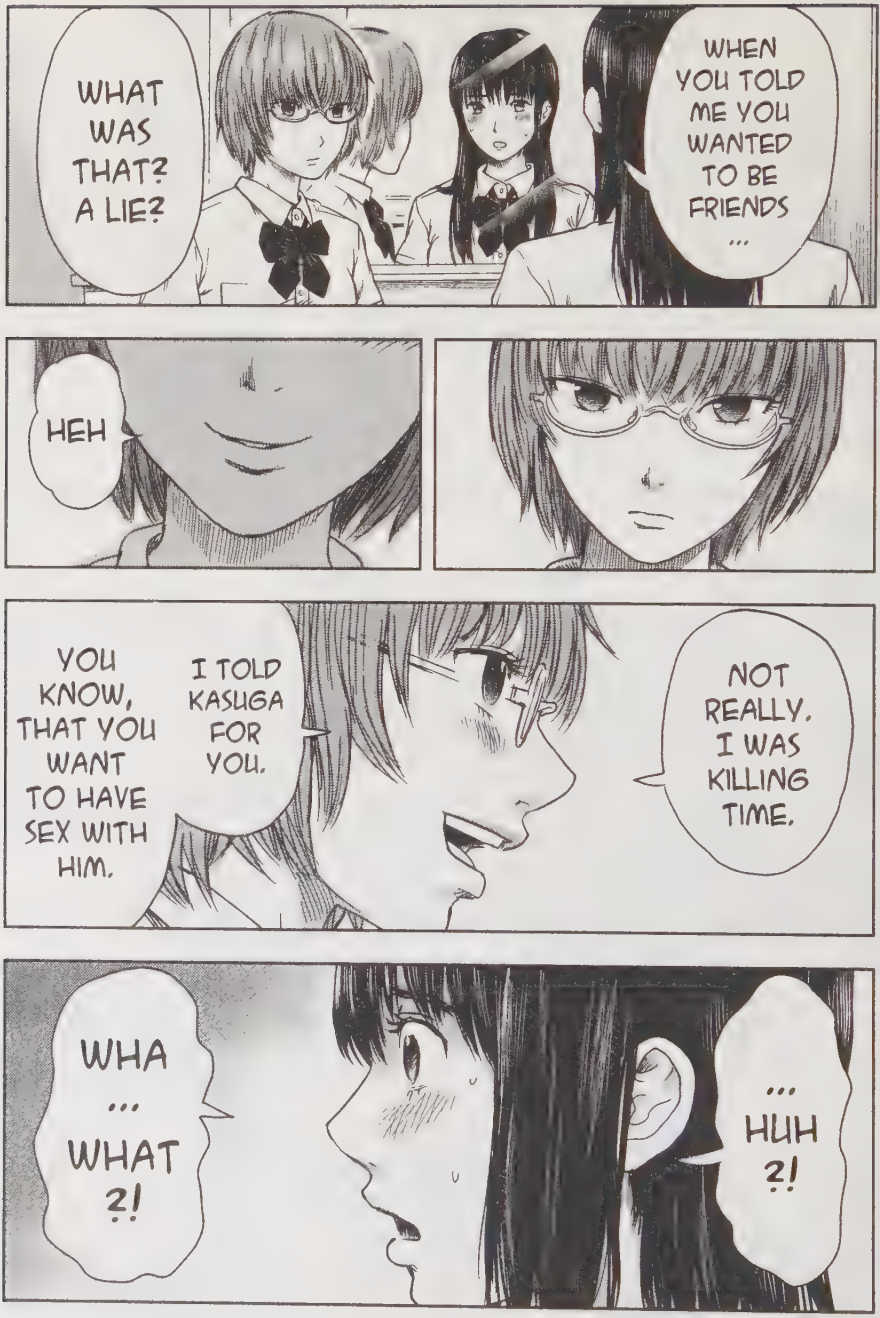

IS OUT SICK.
KASUGA ...





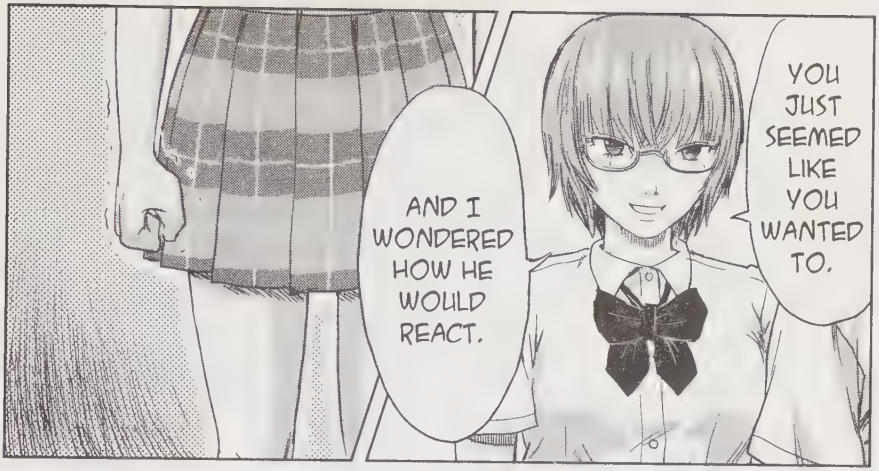

GODA.
HERE.

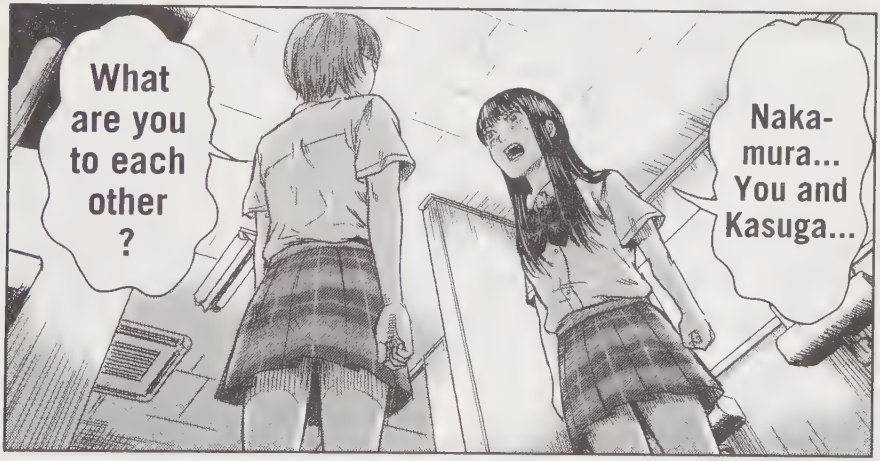


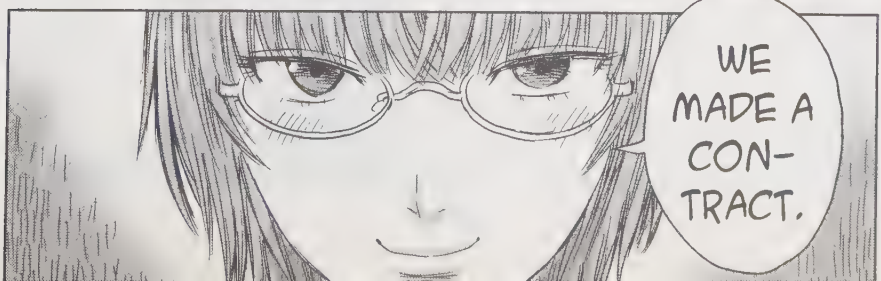

WHAT WAS THAT? A LIE?
WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO BE FRIENDS ...
HEH
NOT REALLY. I WAS KILLING TIME.
I TOLD KASUGA FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW, THAT YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH HIM.
... HUH ?!
WHA ... WHAT ?!

NAKAMURA.
DID YOU ...
KNOW ALL ALONG ABOUT KASUGA?
YEAH.

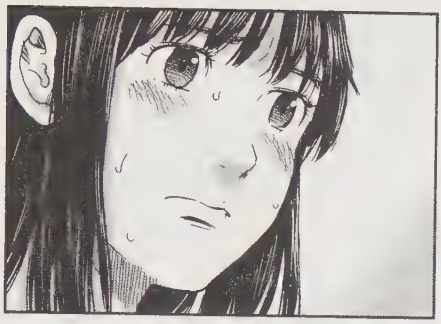
KASUGA'S A FILTHY FUCKING PERVERT.
WHAT'S INSIDE HIM GETS PEELED OUT BY ME IN OUR CONTRACT!
WHA ...
WHA ...
Kasuga
is nothing like a pervert !

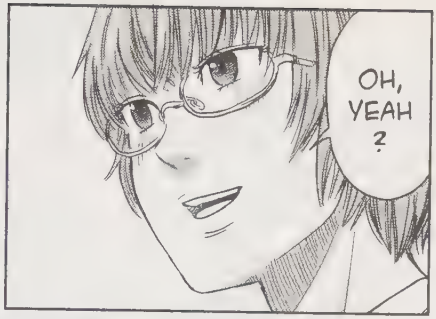

YOU JUST SEEMED LIKE YOU WANTED TO.
AND I WONDERED HOW HE WOULD REACT.

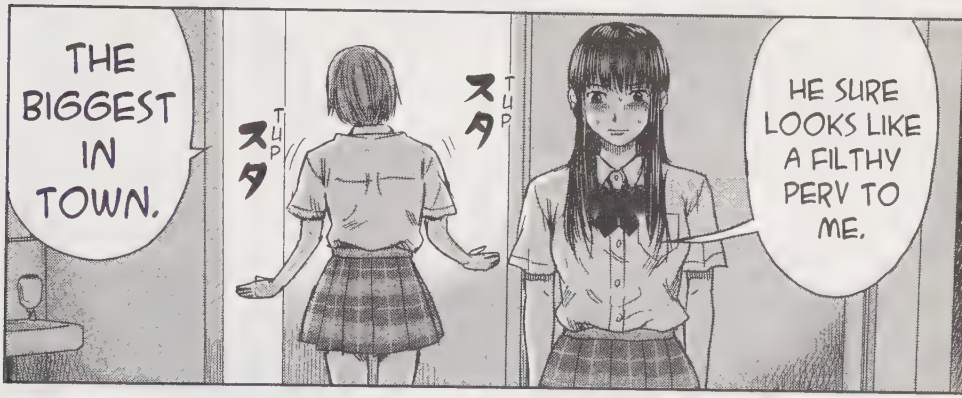

What are you to each other ?
Naka-mura... You and Kasuga...

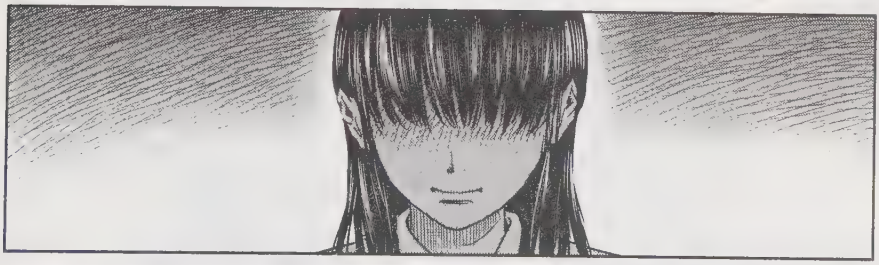

WE MADE A CON-TRACT.

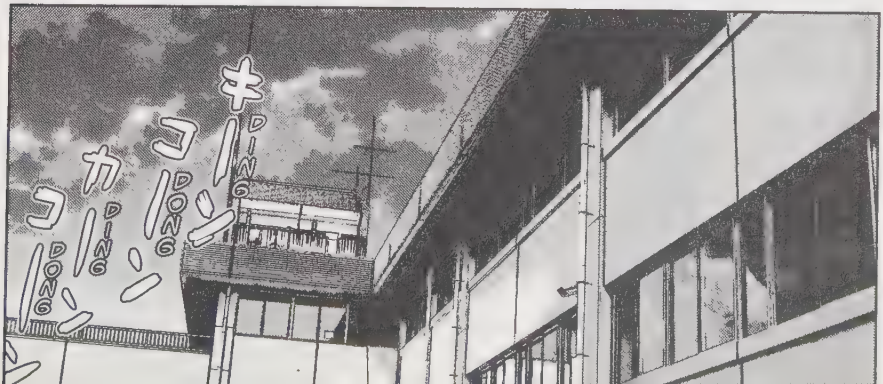
TAKAO,
KACHIK
ガチャ
ARE YOU OKAY?
I PEELED AN APPLE FOR YOU.
DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING.
...
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY, HAVE YOU?
...
UM, TAKAO.
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING ...



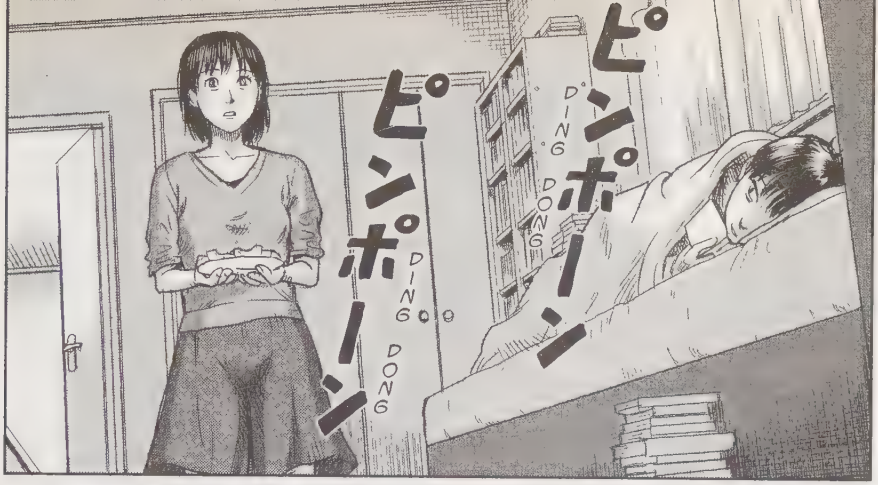

OH, YEAH?


THE BIGGEST IN TOWN.
TUP スタ
TUP スタ
HE SURE LOOKS LIKE A FILTHY PERV TO ME.



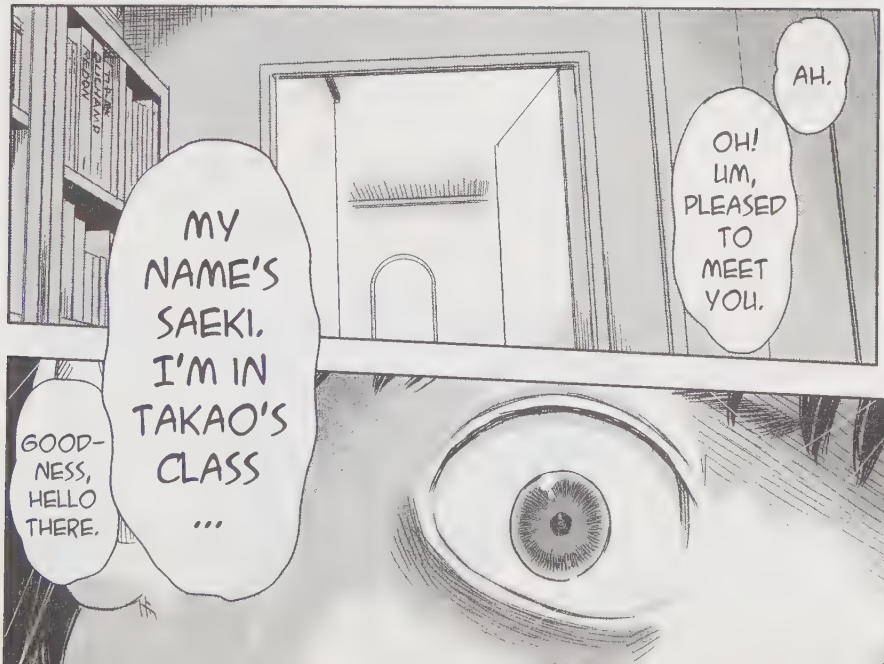

キーン DING
コーン DONG
カーン DING
コーン DONG

TAKAO!
TUP TUP
A GIRL NAMED SAEKI'S HERE FOR—
WHAP
Wait ...!
Just tell her to wait!
HUH?
FOR WHAT?
Please ...!
Tell her ... I can't see her yet... not yet!!


ピンポーン
DING DONG
ピンポーン
DING DONG

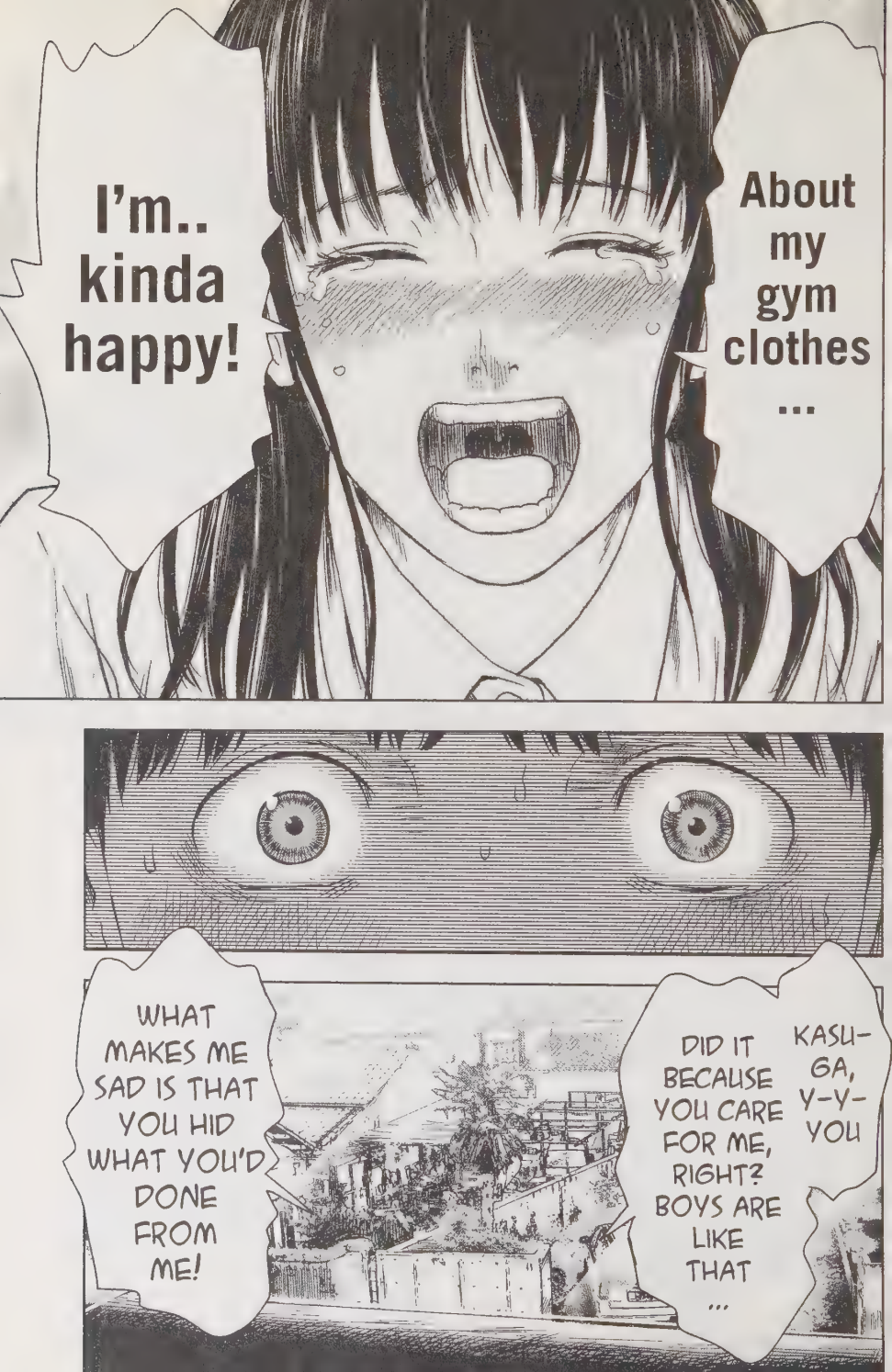
ドカ
THUP
ドカ!
THUP

... COMING!


AH.
OH! UM, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME'S SAEKI. I'M IN TAKAO'S CLASS ...
GOOD-NESS, HELLO THERE.

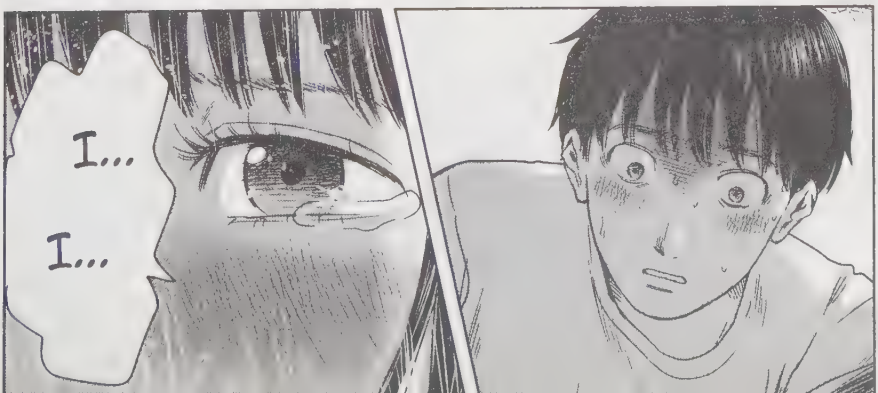
Kasuga, can you hear me?!
I...
DON'T UNDER-STAND!

SIGH
BUT
...
バタン
SLAM
ガサ!
RUSTLE
SAEKI
...
Kasuga
!!


I'm.. kinda happy!
About my gym clothes ...
KASU-GA, Y-Y-YOU
DID IT BECAUSE YOU CARE FOR ME, RIGHT? BOYS ARE LIKE THAT ...
WHAT MAKES ME SAD IS THAT YOU HID WHAT YOU'D DONE FROM ME!

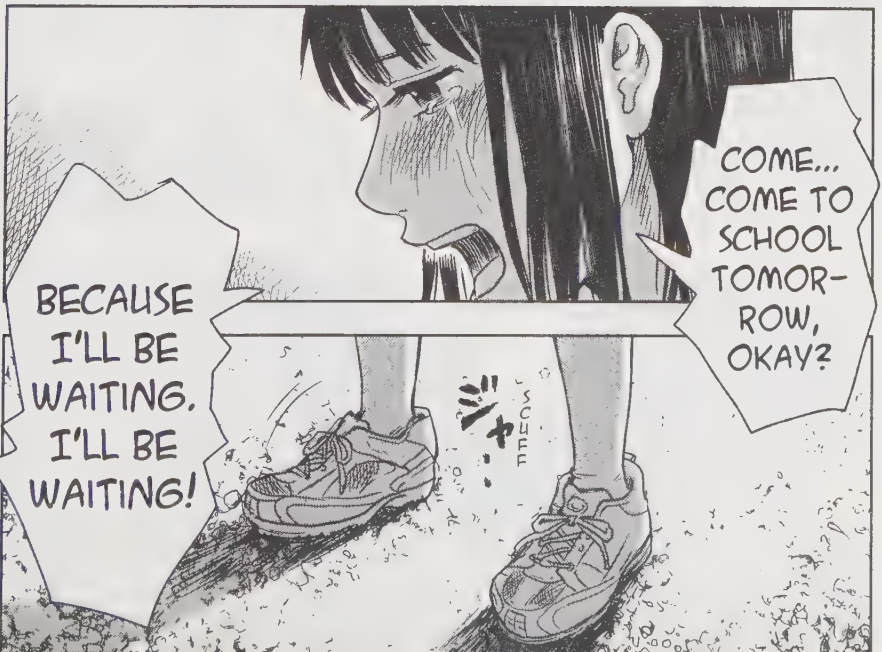
What you're feeling ... I don't under-stand !!
Why you did such a thing, Kasuga ...

I'm sorry... I'm sorry, okay?


I...
I...

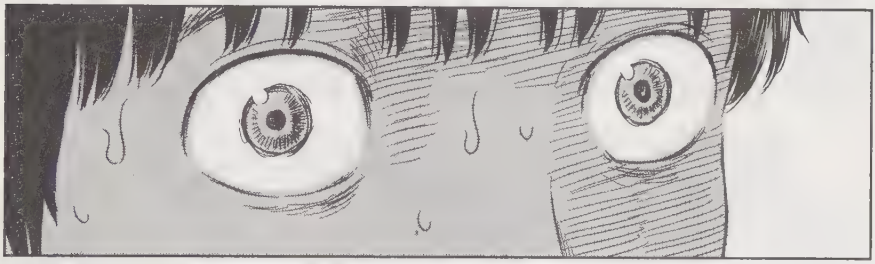
SCENE CHANGE
TAKAO.
KRRK
KRRK

So tell me! Me ... and not Naka-mura !
Share what's going on in your head with me!

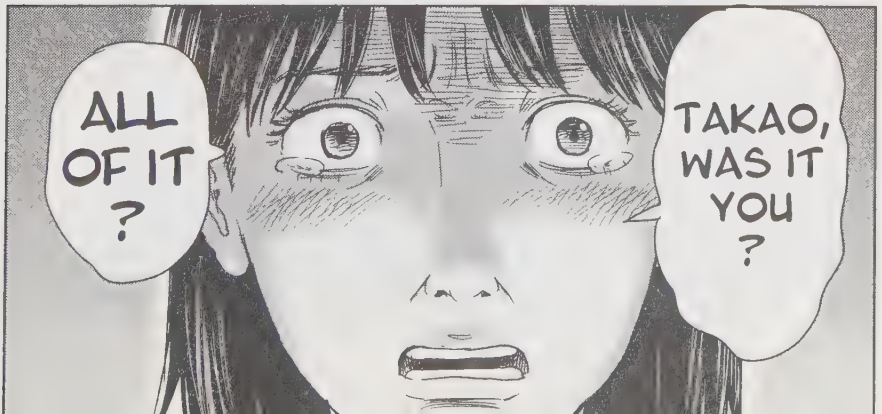

COME... COME TO SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, OKAY?
BECAUSE I'LL BE WAITING. I'LL BE WAITING!
SCUFF

WHAM
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Takao!

WHAT DID YOU DO?
EXPLAIN IT TO ME THIS INSTANT.



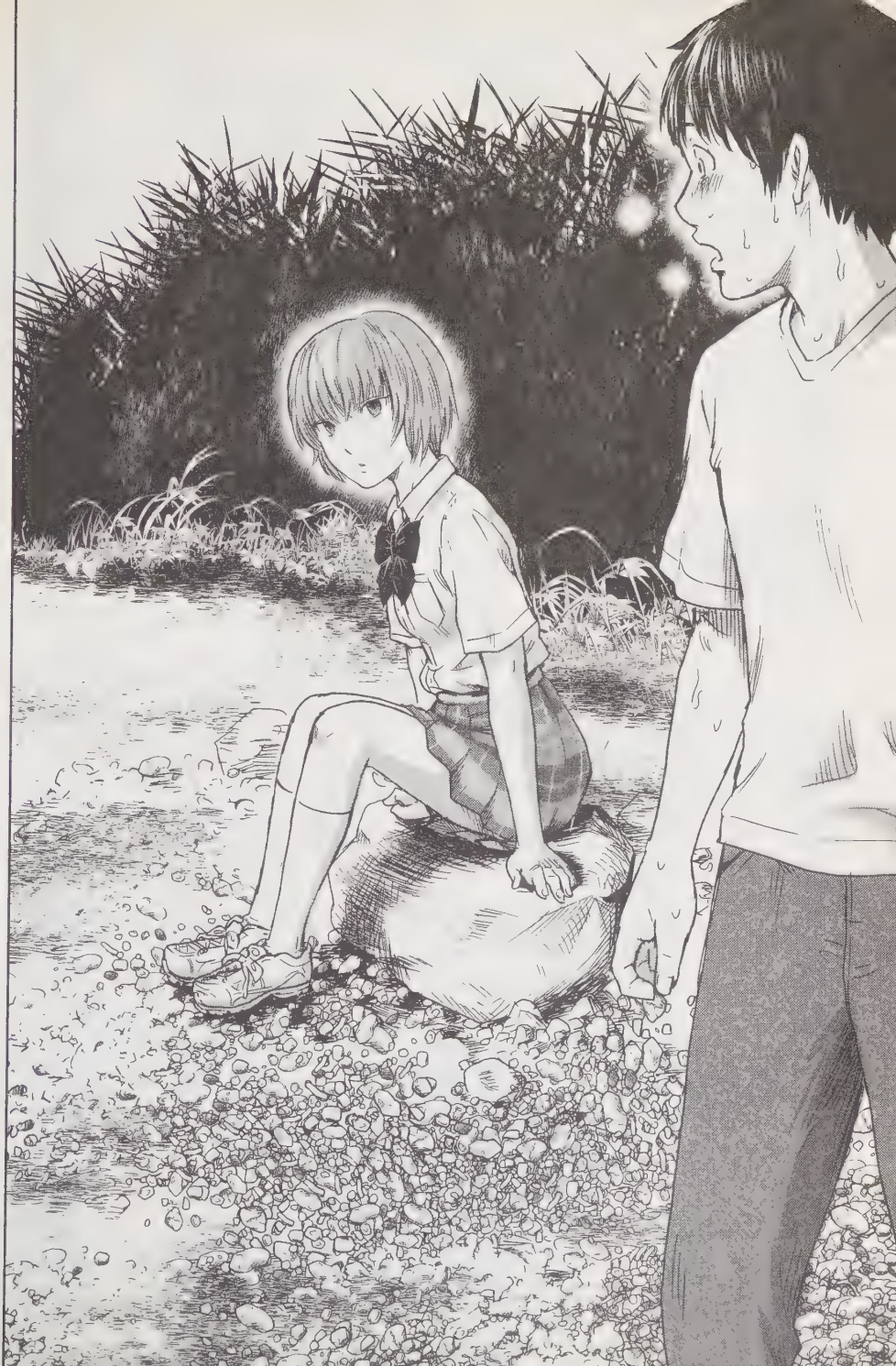
THESE CLOTHES... WERE IN THE WASHING MACHINE.
WHY ARE THEY SO DIRTY?


TAKAO, WAS IT YOU?
ALL OF IT?

NOT IN THIS TOWN
NO-WHERE AT ALL ...
HUFF
HUFF
SWIFF
SWIFF
SWIFF
SW

NO-
WHERE
IT'S
NO-
WHERE
HUFF
HUFF
THERE IS
NO PLACE
FOR ME
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

YOU'RE LATE,
KASUGA.



Chapter 15: Twilight

AFTERWORD ②

Apart from *Don't Deliver Us from Evil*, another work that influenced the creation of this manga is naturally *Tetsu Adachi's Song of Cherry Blossoms*.

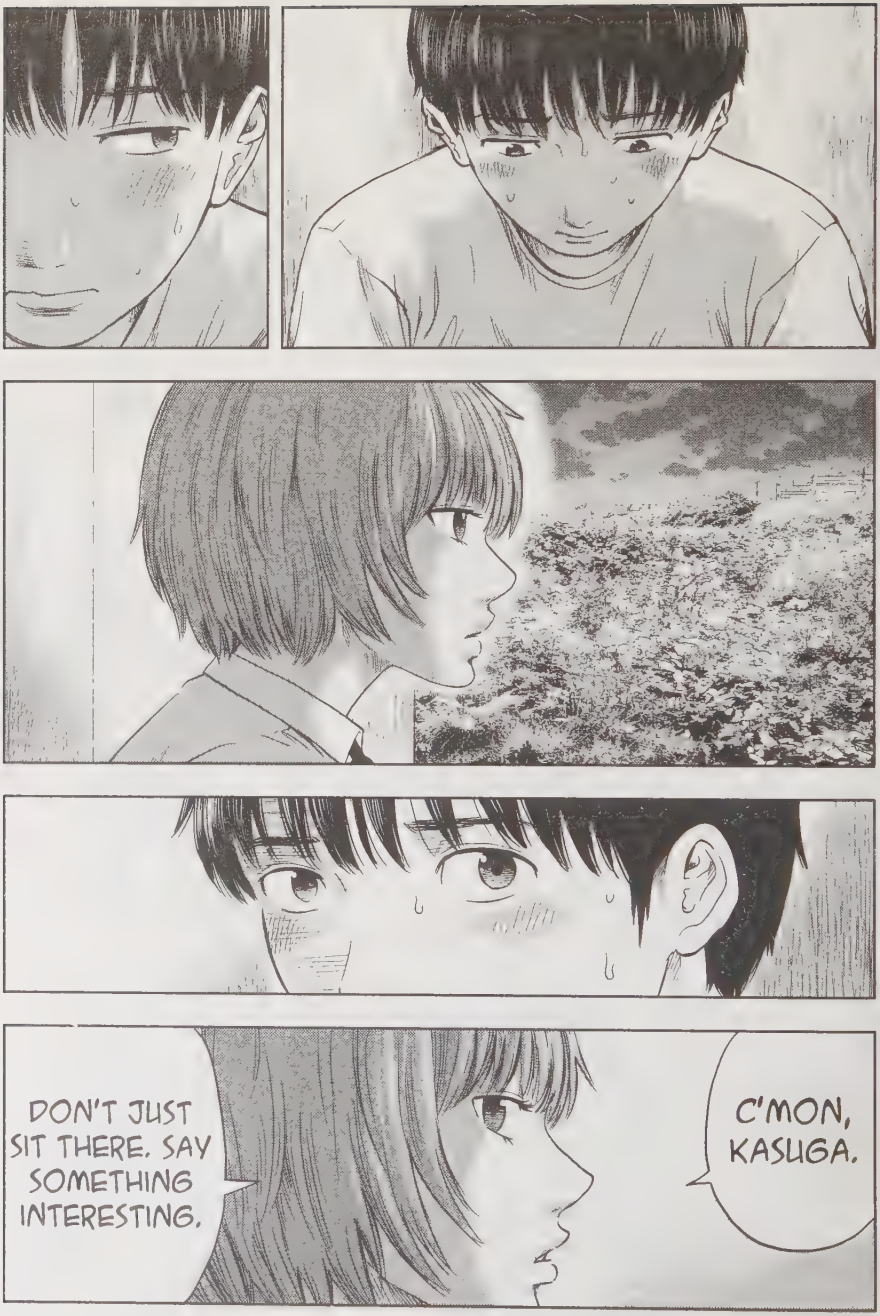
No other manga's protagonist's interiority made me think "just like me" to the same extent. It's a must-read you need to check out before you're out of your teens. Depicting murky self-consciousness and the dark side of youth with astounding intensity, it's a masterpiece.

As for other manga, there's *Masahiko Kikuni's Moonlight Whispers* and *Haruko Kashiwagi's Dog*.

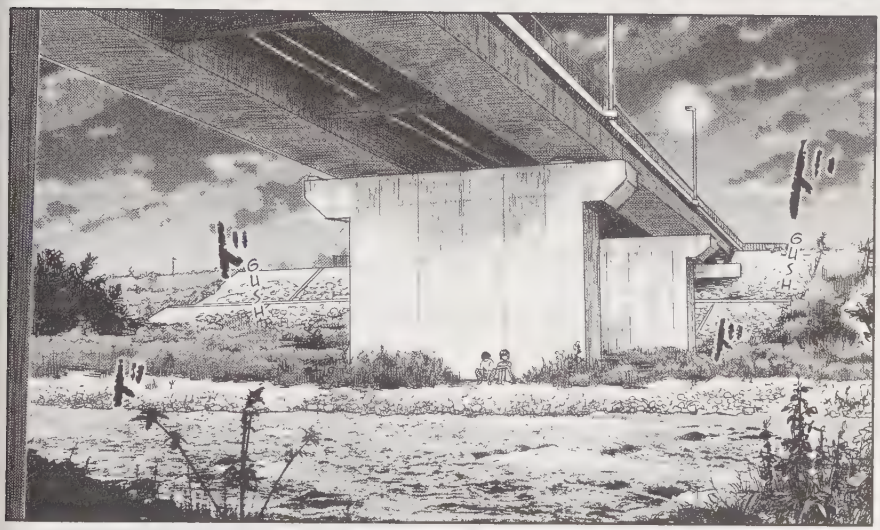
What they all have in common is that they're coming-of-age stories about discovering "a value system of one's own."

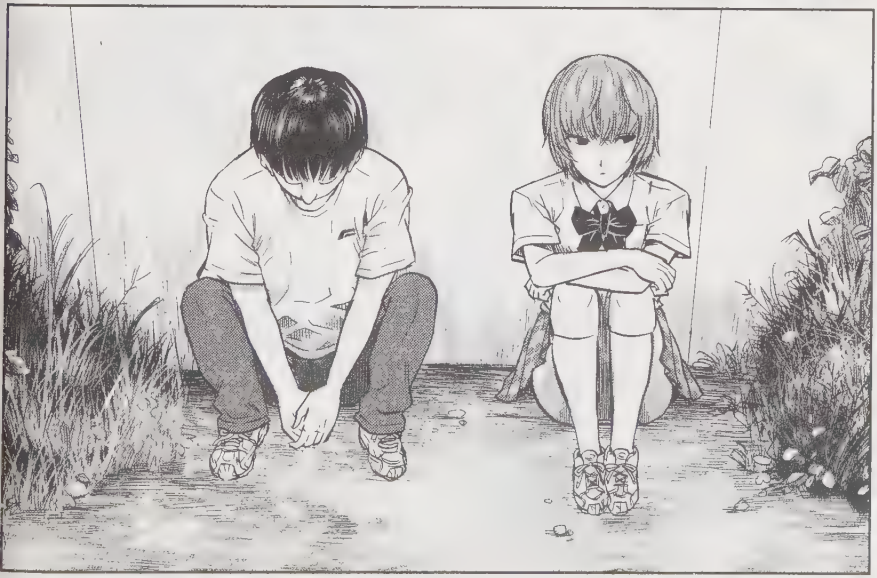
My hope for this manga is that I'll be able to do the same thing.

If you haven't read them, I encourage you to do so.


C'MON, KASUGA.
DON'T JUST SIT THERE. SAY SOMETHING INTERESTING.

GUSH
GUSH


GUSH
GUSH



TAKAO!
ガバッ
FWUP
Takao !!
If you're there, answer me!

HAH ?
ボソ…
MUMBLE
WHAT NOW …
…
MY MOM'S CAUGHT ON…
IT'S ALL OUT, EVERY-THING …
IT'S OUT.
Not home, not school… nor to Saeki…
I can't go back… I've got nowhere to go back to now…

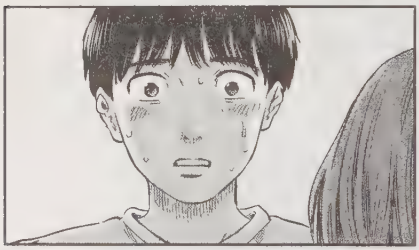
IS THAT YOUR MOM?
WHAT AN IDIOT, HUH?
HEY ...
...
...

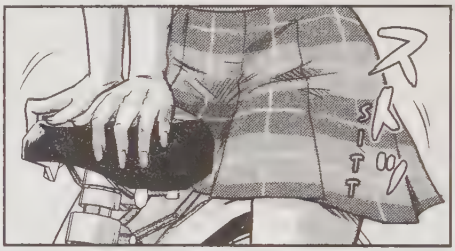
Takao
!!

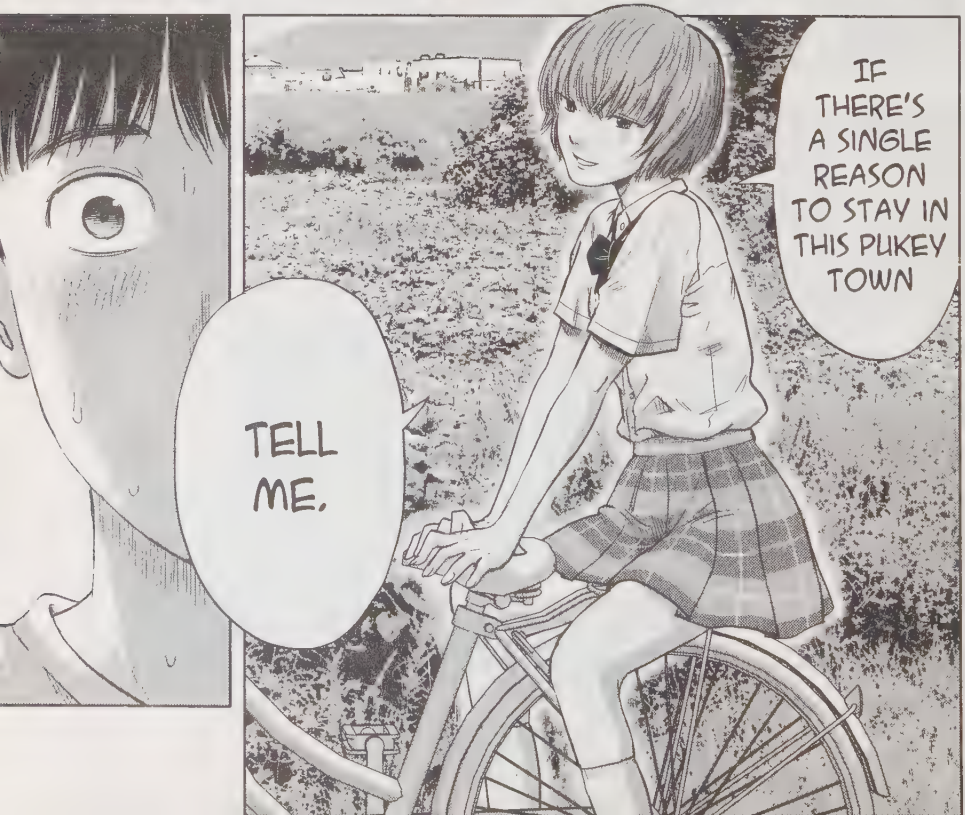
OVER THAT.
COME THIS WAY.
!
ガサ
RUSTLE
ガサ
RUSTLE

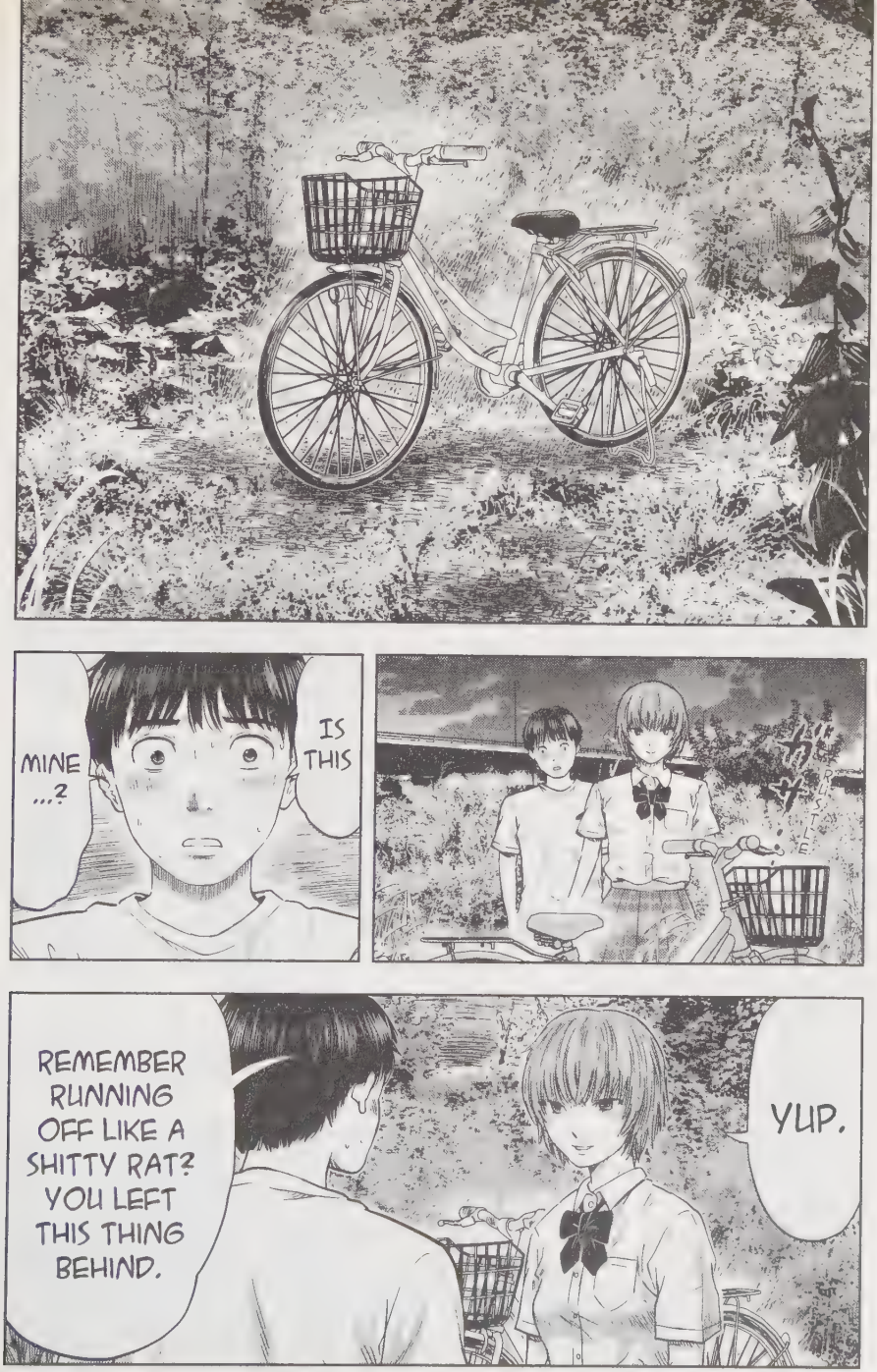
LET'S GO.
THEN
WHERE?
WH—

WAAAAAAAAH!
CRASH
CRASH
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TELL EVERY-ONE...
YOU'D BETTER CARRY ME PAST THE MOUN-TAIN.

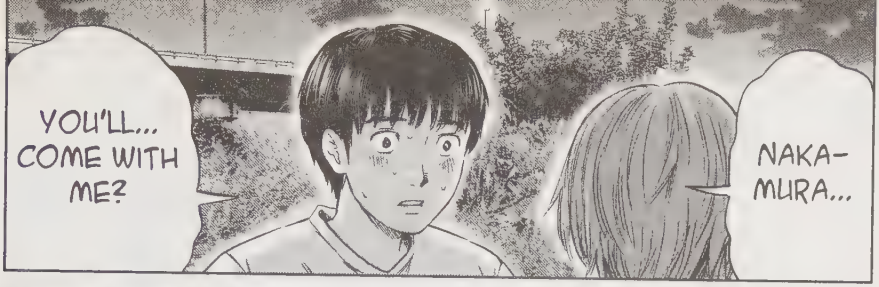


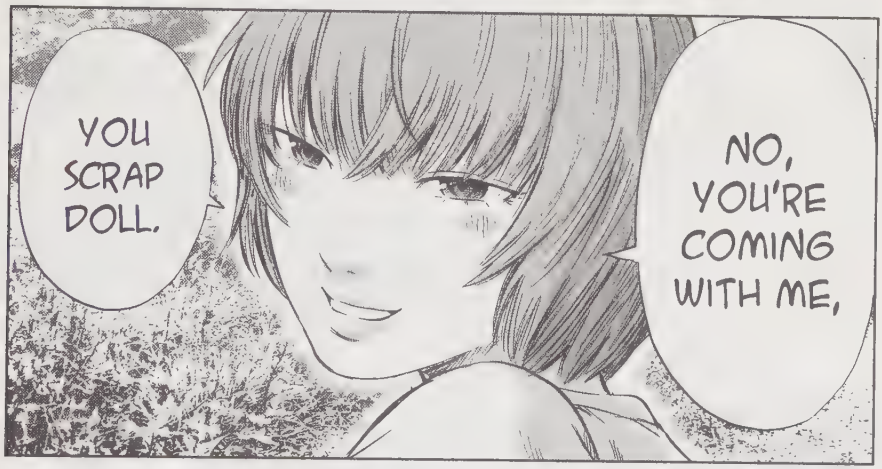

SITT

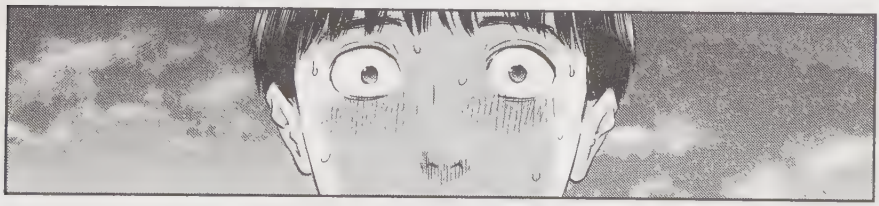

IF THERE'S A SINGLE REASON TO STAY IN THIS PUKEY TOWN
TELL ME.

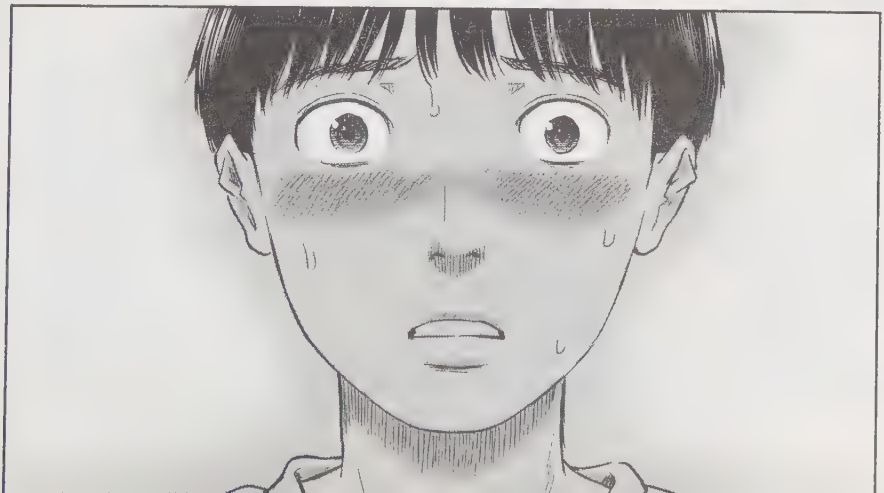

IS THIS
MINE ...?
YUP.
REMEMBER RUNNING OFF LIKE A SHITTY RAT? YOU LEFT THIS THING BEHIND.

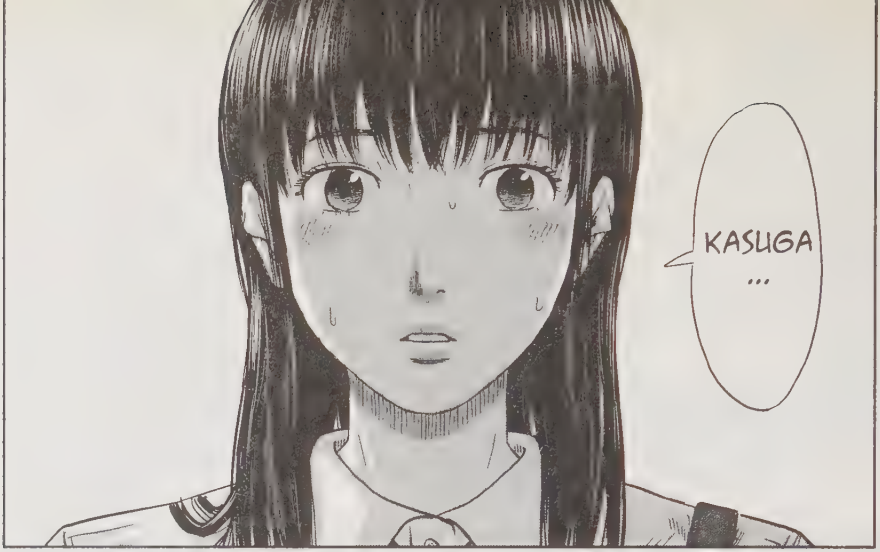
...OH,
EXCUSE ME!

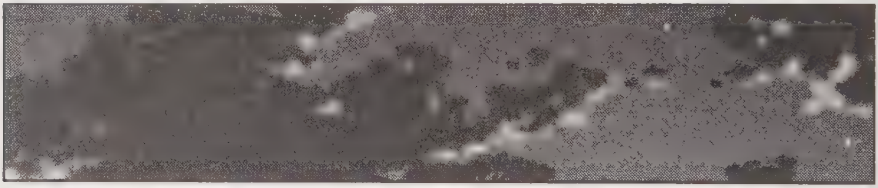

YOU'LL... COME WITH ME?
NAKA-MURA...


YOU SCRAP DOLL.
NO, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME,






KASUGA
...

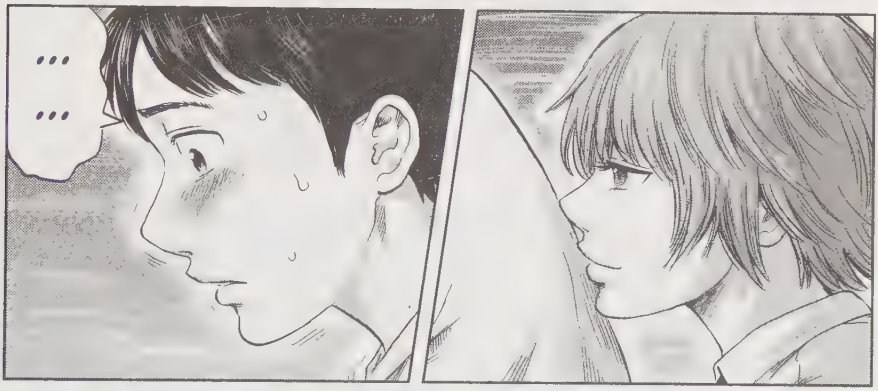


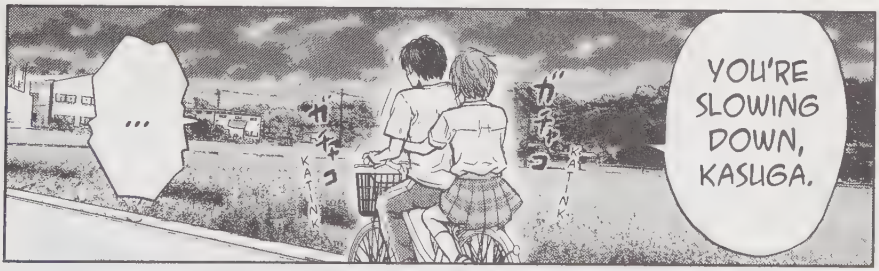
カチャ
KATANK
カチャ
KATANK

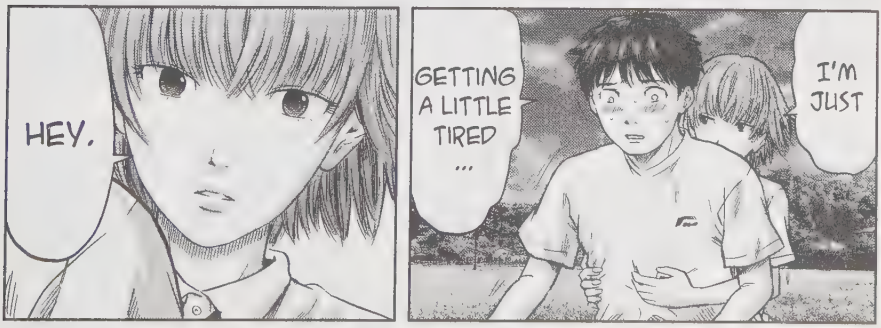
HUFF
HUFF
AH, MRS. KASUGA.
HM? YOU MEAN TAKAO?
HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON?
HUFF
HUFF
UM... I'M SORRY, AND THANK YOU!
HUH?
NO, JUST... HE WENT FLYING OUT OF THE HOUSE...
WHY? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOPE, HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
KATINK
KATINK

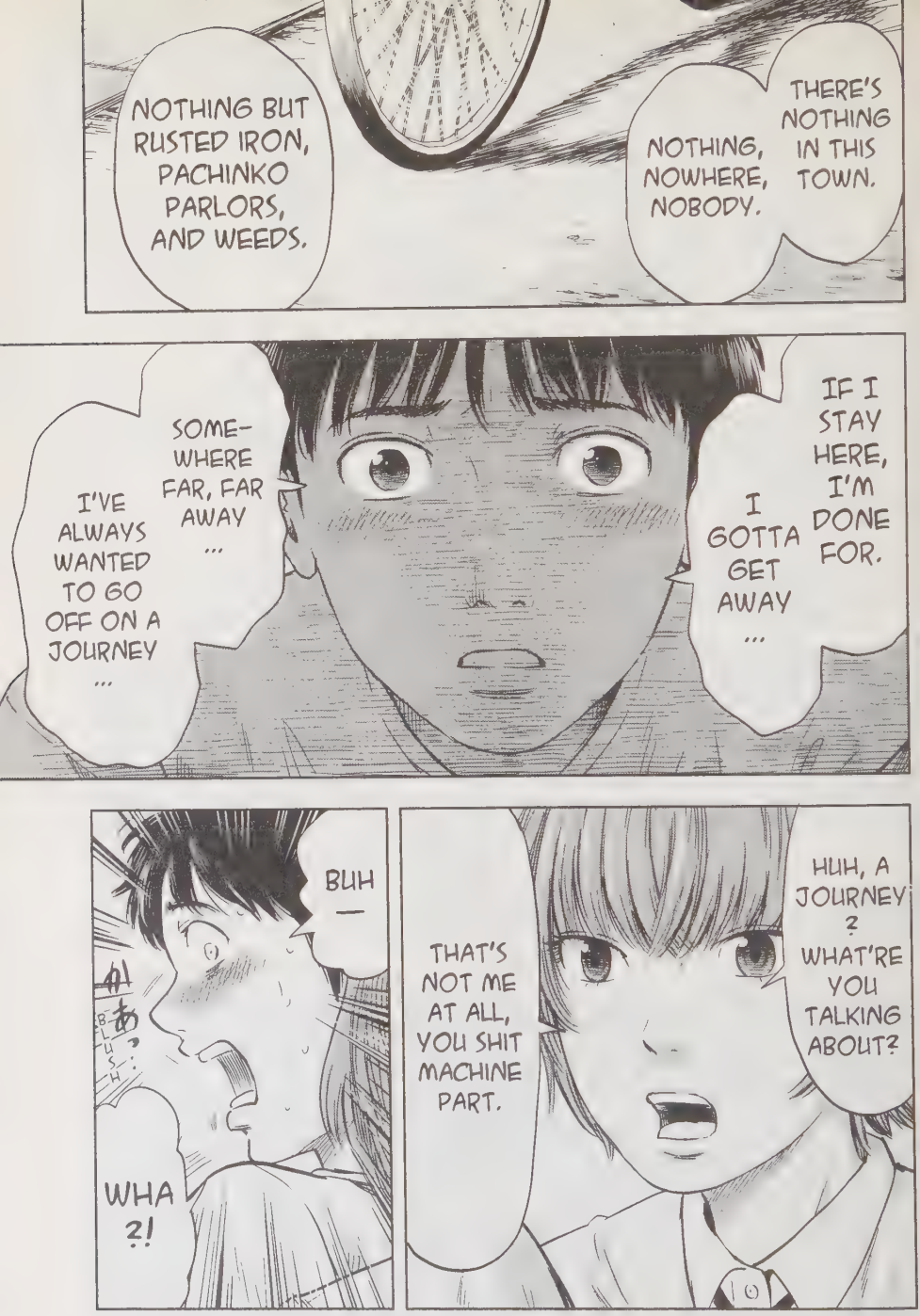
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS PAST THE MOUNTAIN?
HUH?
I'VE ... OFTEN THOUGHT
MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING ON THE OTHER SIDE.

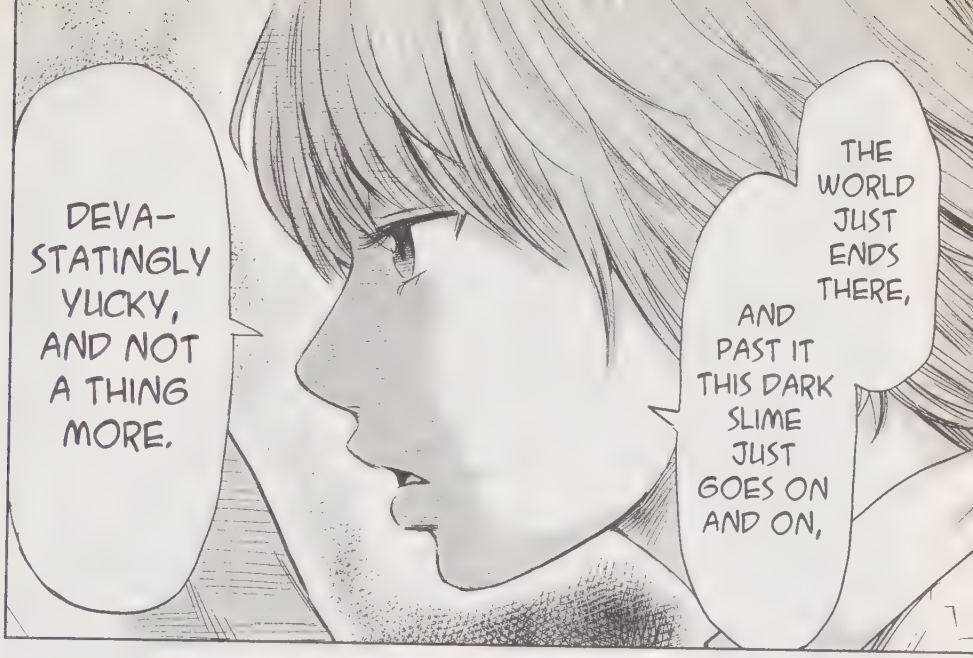
ガチャコ
KATINK
ガチャコ
KATINK

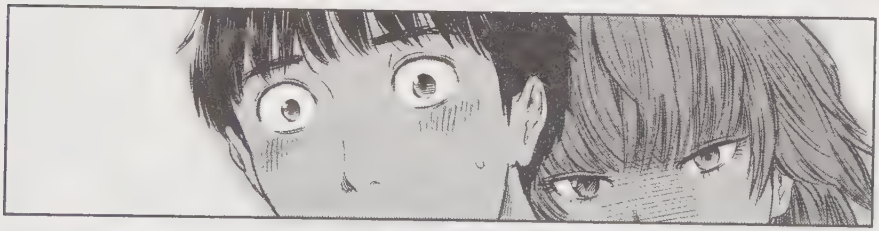

...
...

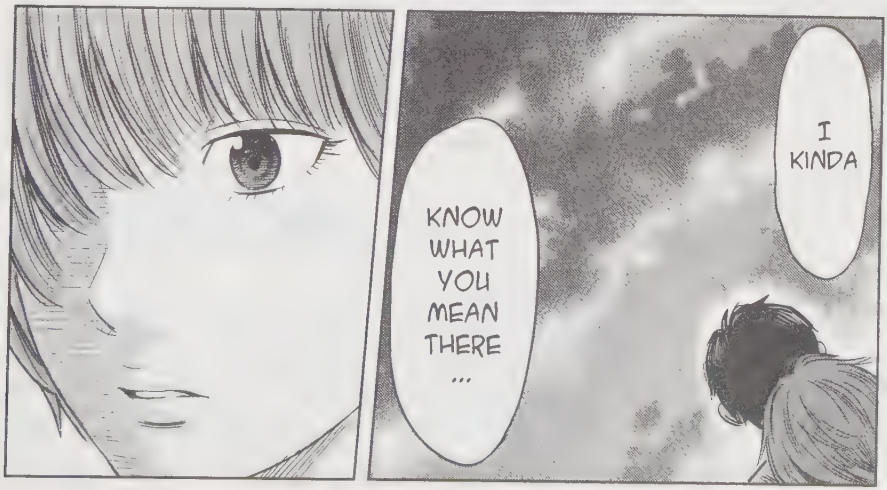

...
ガチャコ
KATINK
ガチャコ
KATINK
YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN, KASUGA.


HEY.
GETTING A LITTLE TIRED ...
I'M JUST

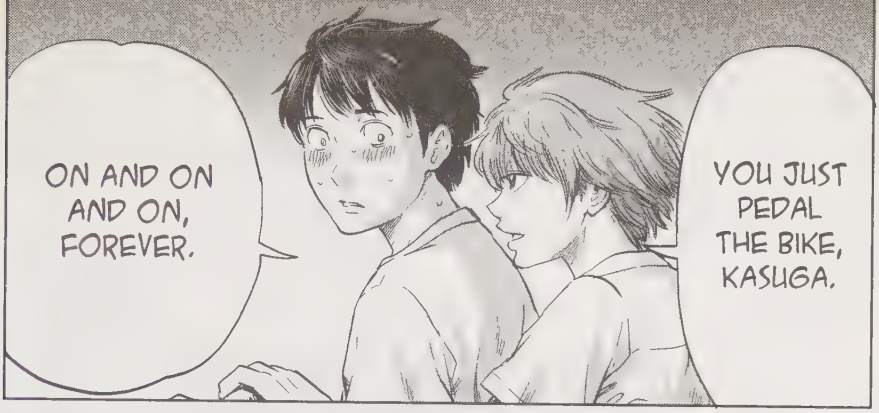

THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS TOWN.
NOTHING, NOWHERE, NOBODY.
NOTHING BUT RUSTED IRON, PACHINKO PARLORS, AND WEEDS.
IF I STAY HERE, I'M DONE FOR.
I GOTTA GET AWAY ...
SOME-WHERE FAR, FAR AWAY ...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO OFF ON A JOURNEY ...
HUH, A JOURNEY? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S NOT ME AT ALL, YOU SHIT MACHINE PART.
BUH—
あ? BLUSH
WHA?!

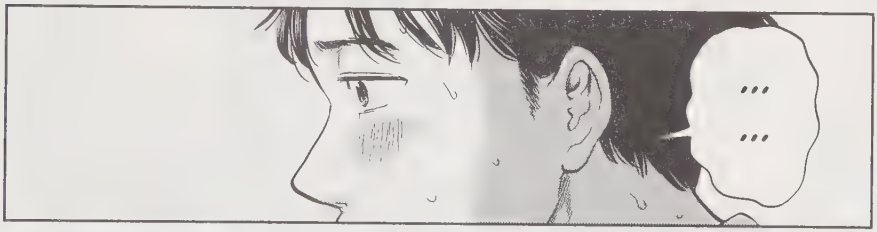

THE WORLD JUST ENDS THERE,
AND PAST IT THIS DARK SLIME JUST GOES ON AND ON,
DEVA-STATINGLY YUCKY, AND NOT A THING MORE.




I KINDA
KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN THERE ...

NANAKO?
NO APPETITE?
CHIK
カチャ
CHIK
カチャ
OH,
RIGHT.
HM?
I GUESS NOT...
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT DINNER,
BUT CAN I MAKE A PHONE CALL?
HM?
SURE...


ON AND ON AND ON, FOREVER.
YOU JUST PEDAL THE BIKE, KASUGA.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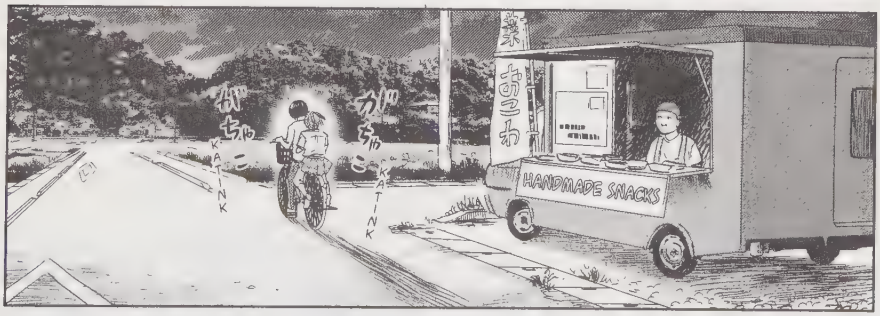
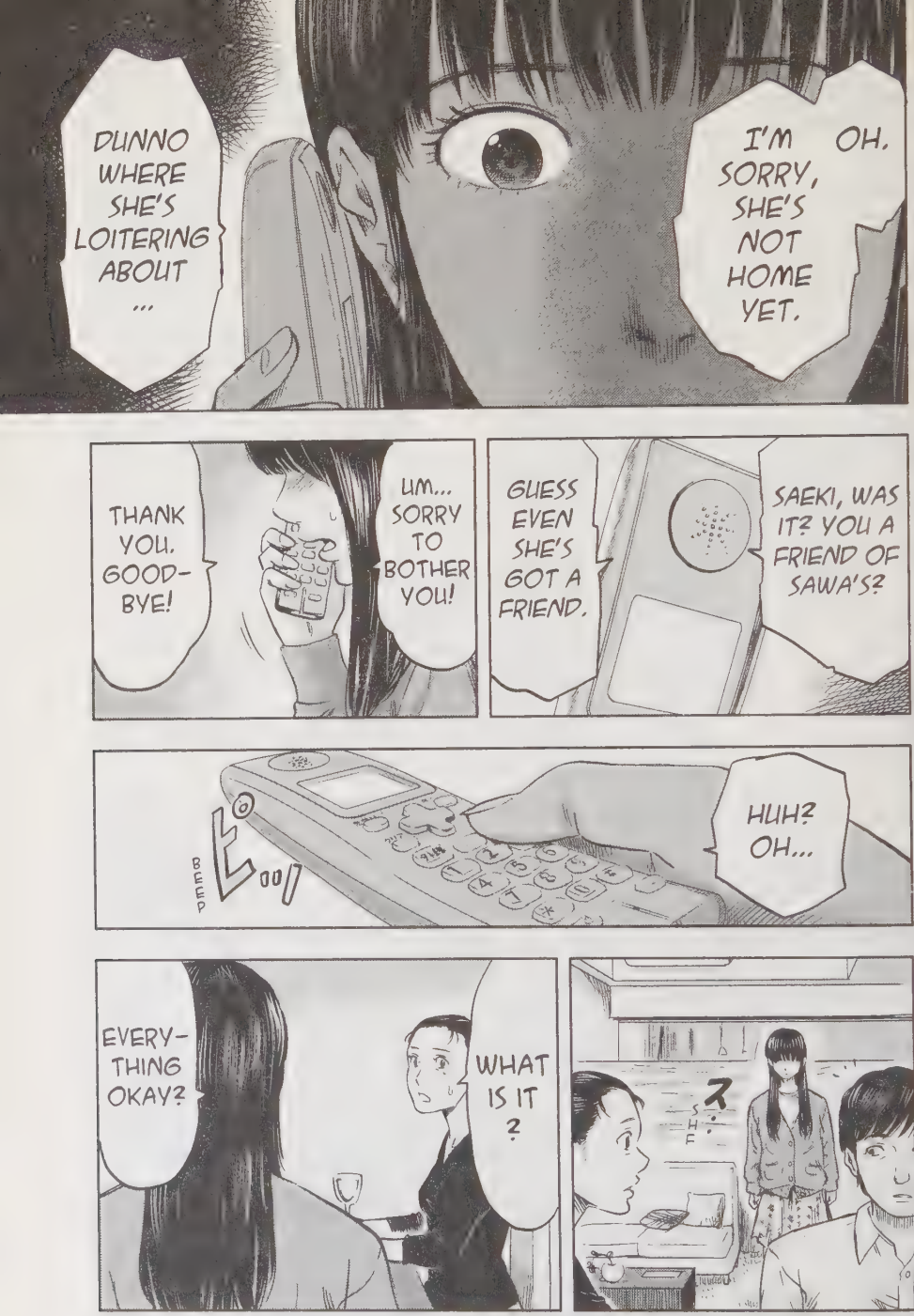
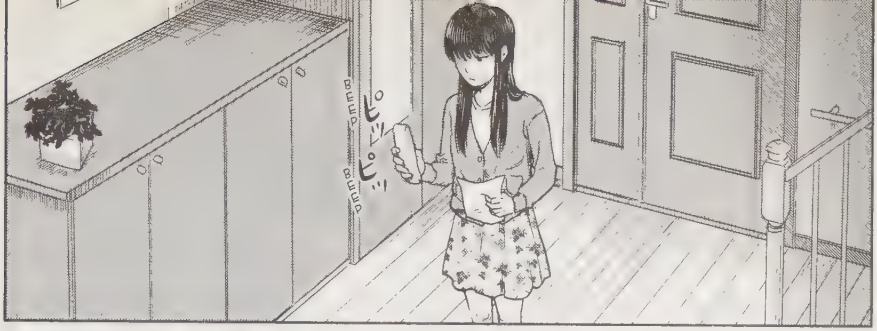
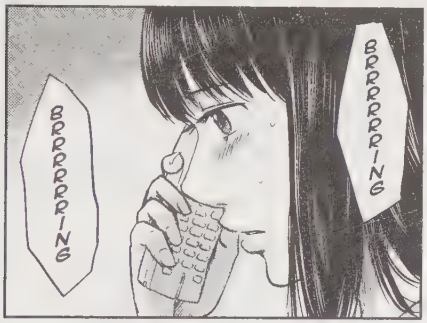
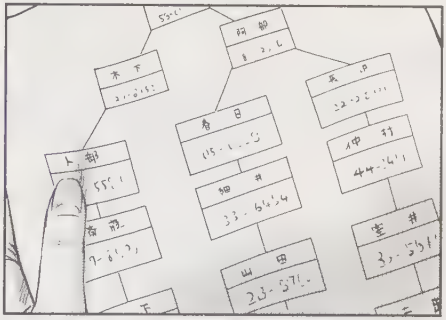
...

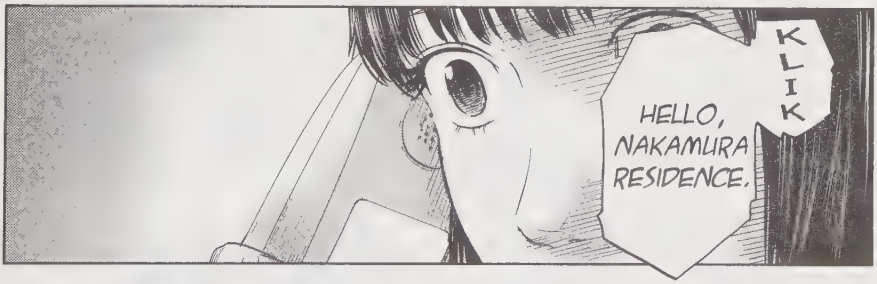

HANDMADE SNACKS
KATINK
KATINK

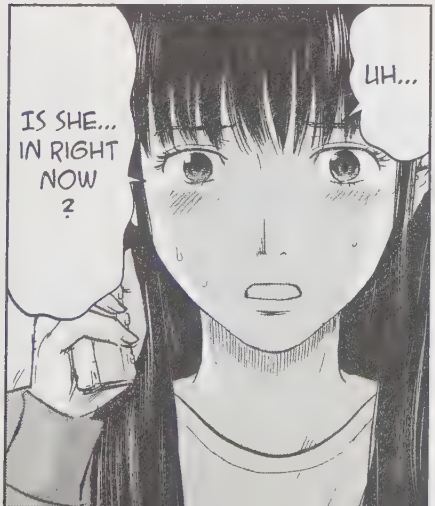

DUNNO WHERE SHE'S LOITERING ABOUT ...
I'M SORRY, SHE'S NOT HOME YET.
OH.
THANK YOU. GOOD-BYE!
UM... SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
GUESS EVEN SHE'S GOT A FRIEND.
SAEKI, WAS IT? YOU A FRIEND OF SAWA'S?
BEEP
HUH? OH...
EVERY-THING OKAY?
WHAT IS IT ?
SHE

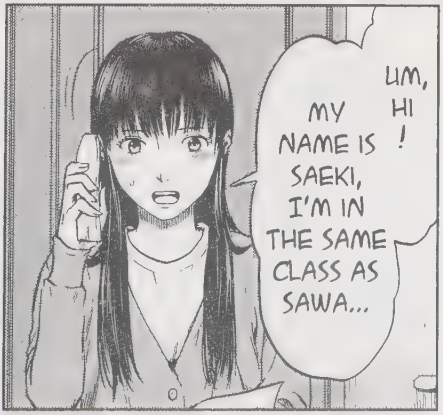

ピンポーン
BEEP BEEP


BRRRRRING
BRRRRRING

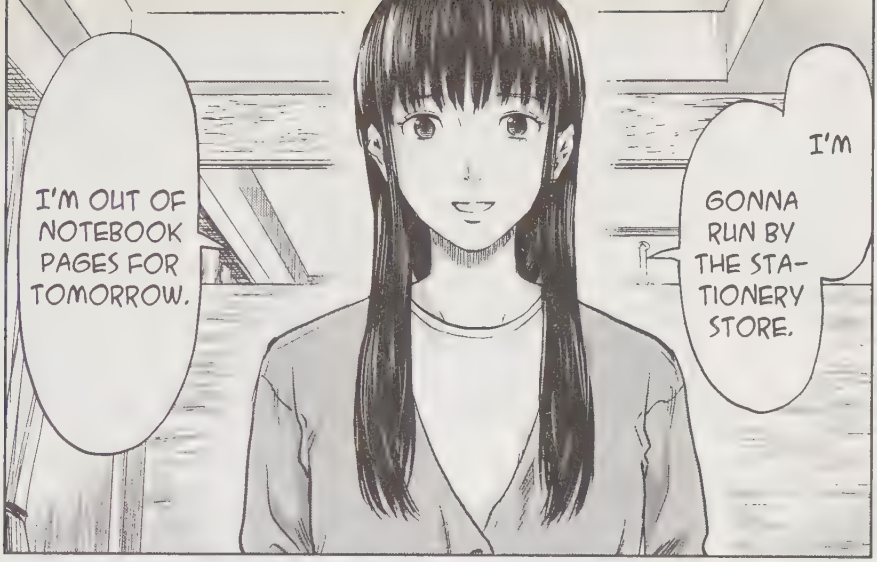


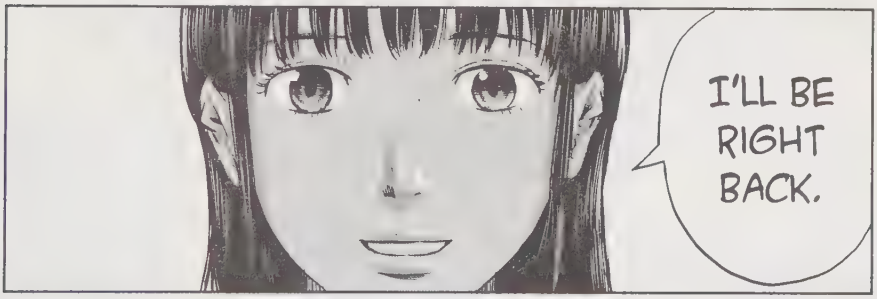

KLIK
HELLO, NAKAMURA RESIDENCE.

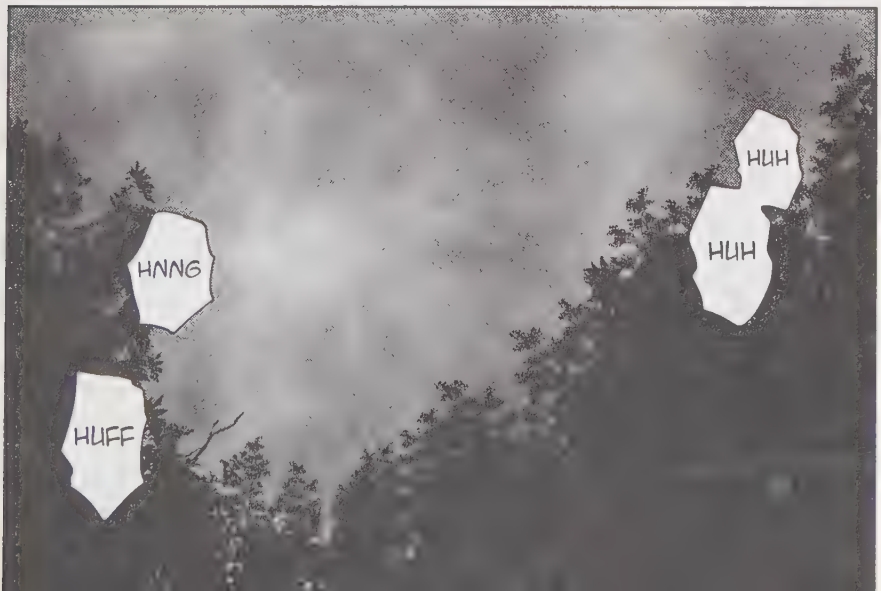

UH...
IS SHE... IN RIGHT NOW ?

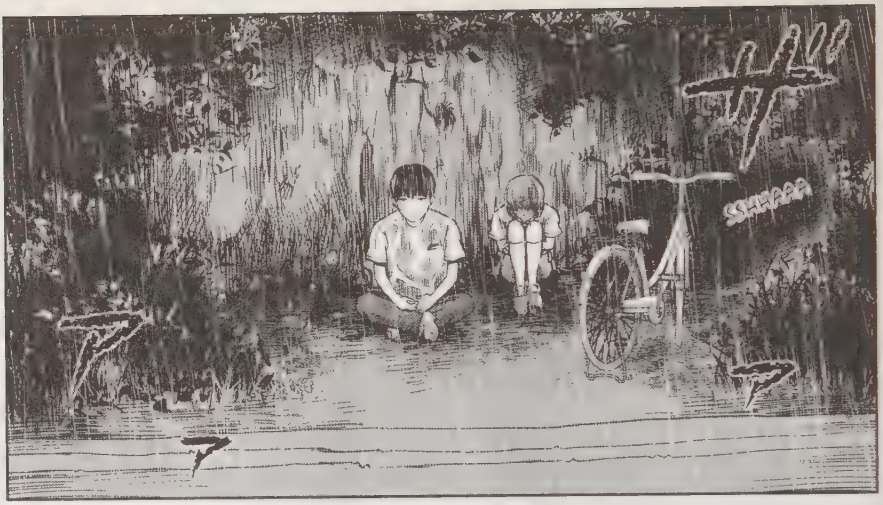

UM, HI !
MY NAME IS SAEKI, I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS SAWA...

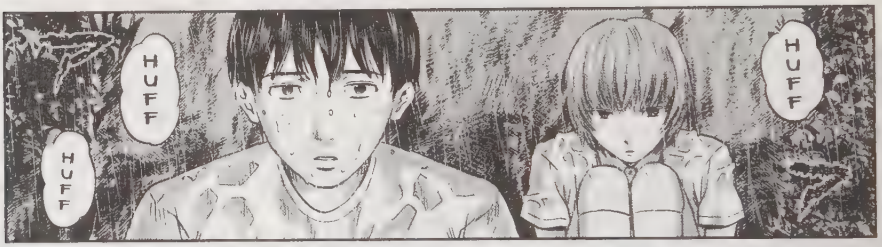
HUFF
HUFF ...
KASU-GAAA !
WE'RE BARELY MOVING AT ALL.
YOU REALLY ARE SCRAP IRON.
SAD, SAD.
BUT ...
HUFF
HUFF
ポ
!
I'VE BEEN DOING ALL THE PEDALING !!
BUT
ポ
PLIP
PLIP
ポ
PLIP
ポ
PLIP
ポ
PLIP
ポ

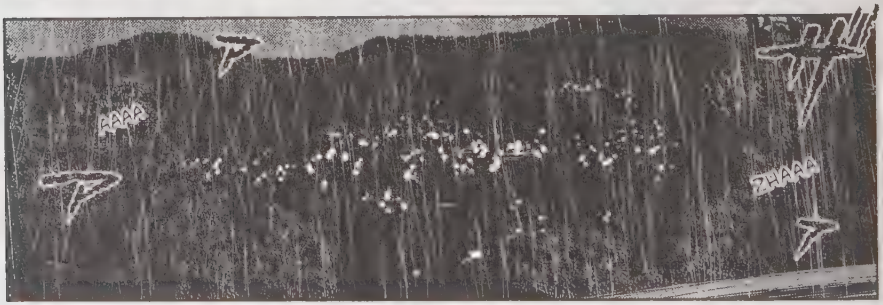

I'M OUT OF NOTEBOOK PAGES FOR TOMORROW.
I'M GONNA RUN BY THE STATIONERY STORE.

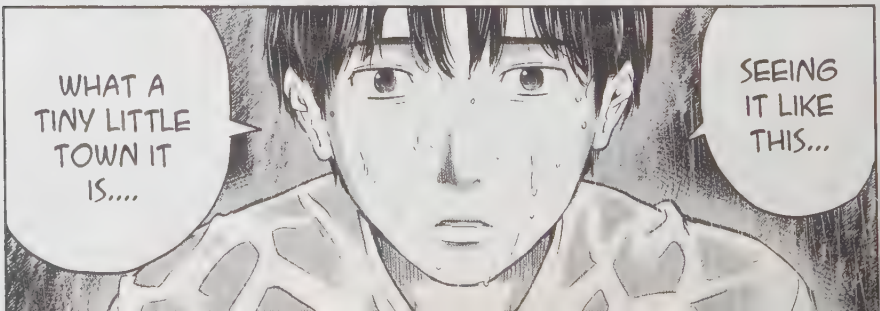

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.


HUH
HUH
HNNG
HUFF

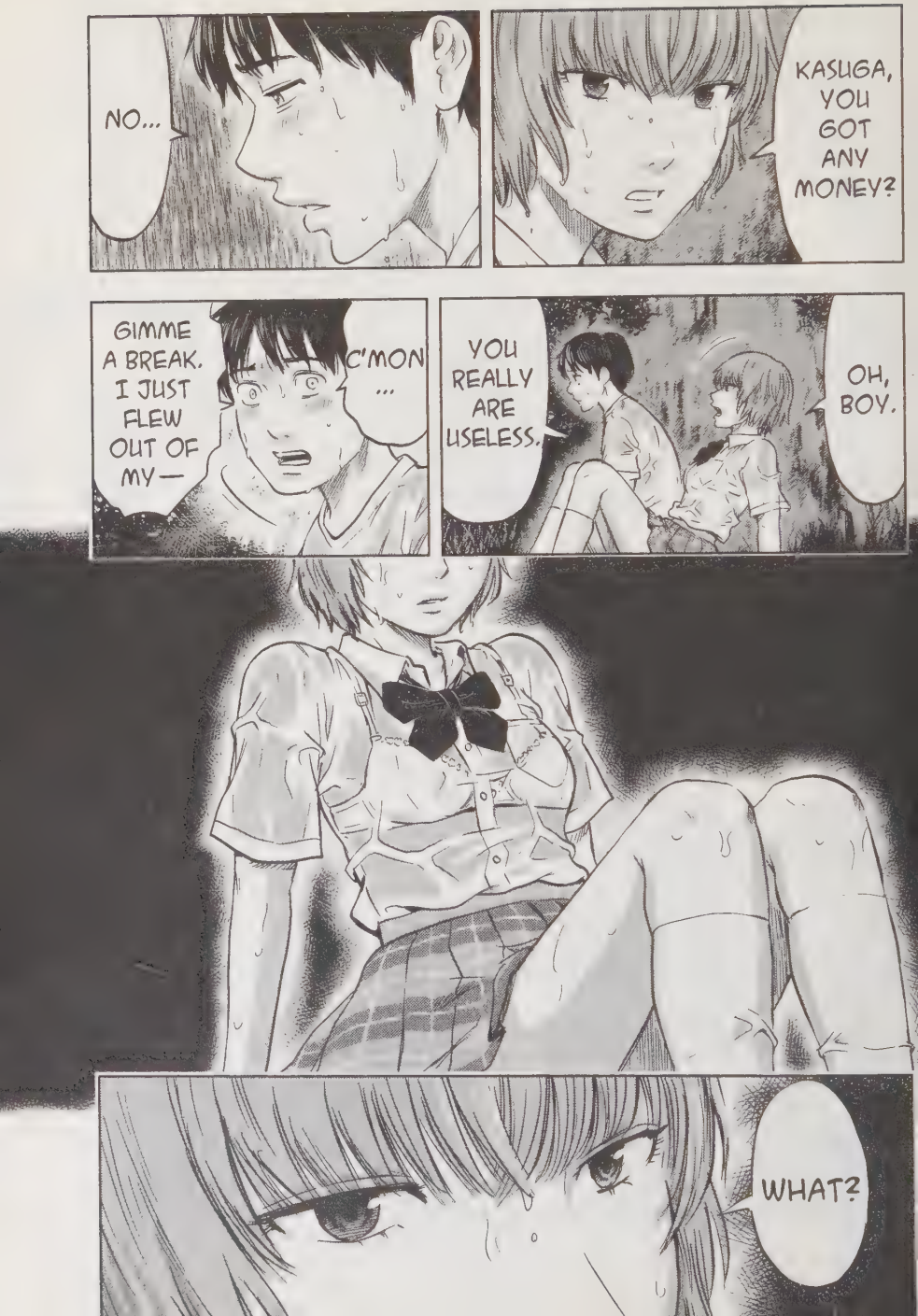

SSHHAAA


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


AAAA
ZHAAA


WHAT A TINY LITTLE TOWN IT IS....
SEEING IT LIKE THIS...

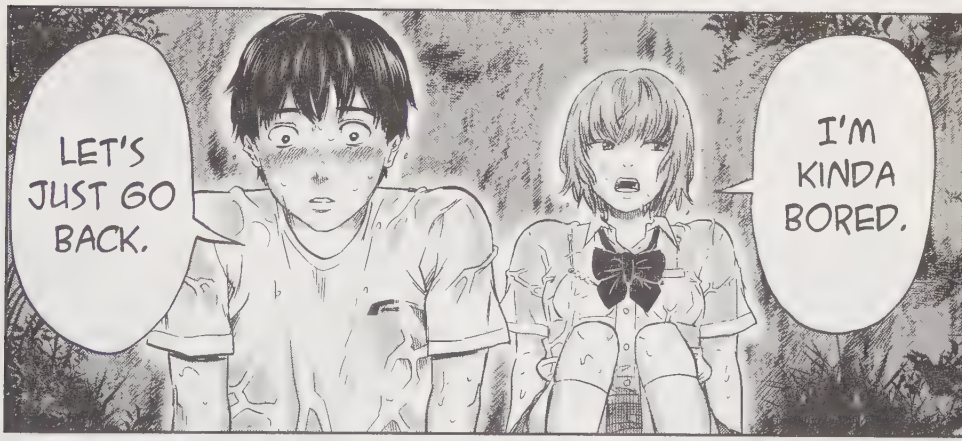
It's really coming down!
Aw, geez.
SSHH
SSHH
OH! NAKA-MURA, LOOK!
...
WE CAN TAKE SHELTER IN THAT GAP!
OVER THERE!
SSHHAAA

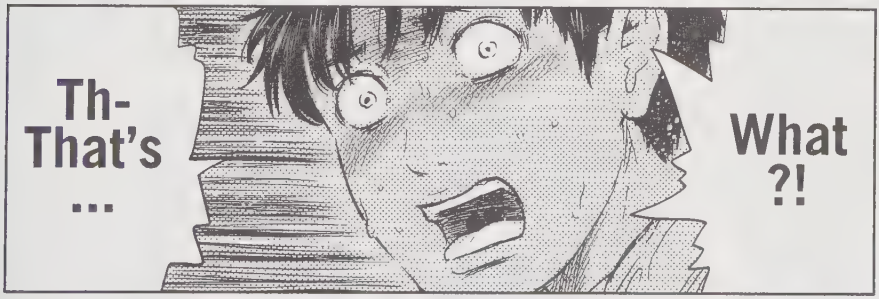

NO...
KASUGA, YOU GOT ANY MONEY?
GIMME A BREAK. I JUST FLEW OUT OF MY—
C'MON ...
YOU REALLY ARE USELESS.
OH, BOY.
WHAT?

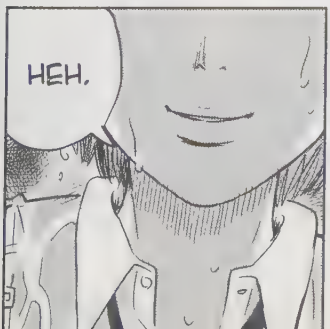
MY DAD KNOWS TOO, BY NOW.
I BET
BECAUSE I'LL BE WAITING. I'LL BE WAITING!
SHARE WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD WITH ME!
...
GRUMBLE

I WANNA SEE THE OTHER SIDE SO BADLY IT TINGLES ...
JUST KIDDING.
WE'LL SET OUT ONCE THE RAIN STOPS.
SHAAA
OKAY ...
AAAAA

UH ...
NO-THING ...


I'M KINDA BORED.
LET'S JUST GO BACK.


What ?!
Th-That's ...

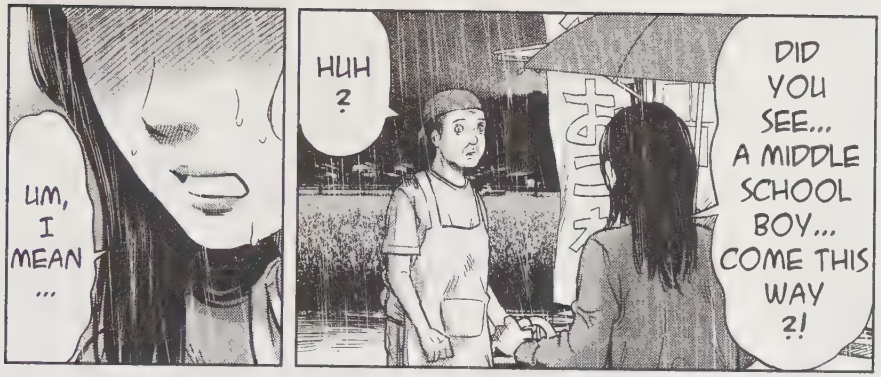

HEH.

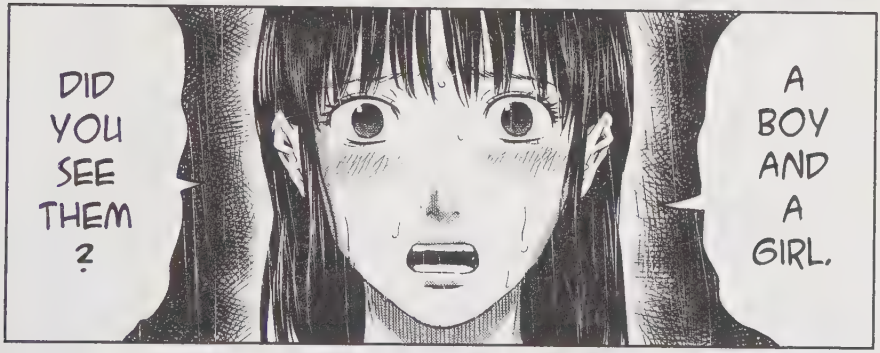
UGH ...
UM ...
WHA ?!

AAH!
SPLASH
BRRRMMM
12-34
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SHAAA
TUNK
TUNK
HANDMADE
UM ...
EX-CUSE ME!
OH, SOR-RY.
I'M CLOSED FOR THE DAY.

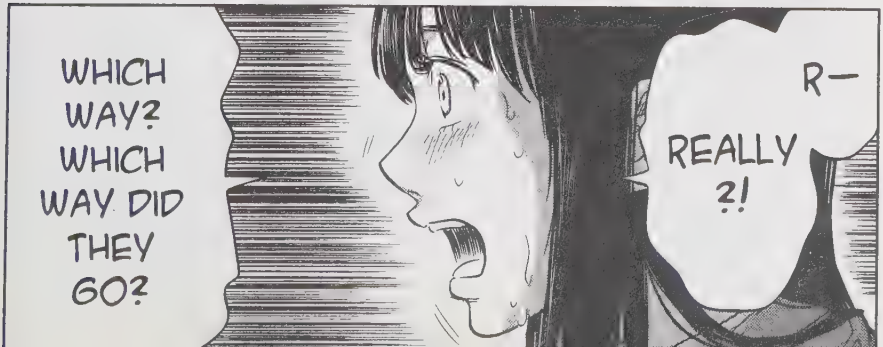
AAAA
SHAAAA
ENEC
NOPE, HAVEN'T SEEN 'IM.
ガチャ
KACHIK
ガチャ
KACHIK
DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW? OUT AT THIS HOUR?
BEATS ME ...
はあっ
HUFF
はあっ
HUFF
はあっ
HUFF

But that's the road that goes over the mountain, you know?
Thataway.
SHAAAA
AAAA
WHY DID THEY...

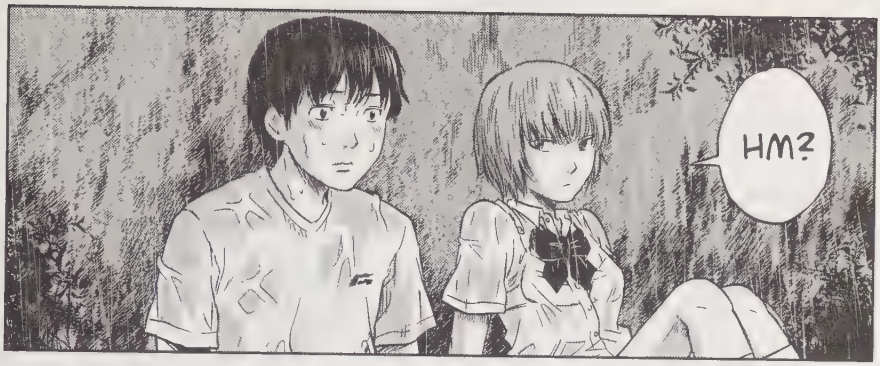

UM, I MEAN ...
HUH ?
DID YOU SEE... A MIDDLE SCHOOL BOY... COME THIS WAY ?!

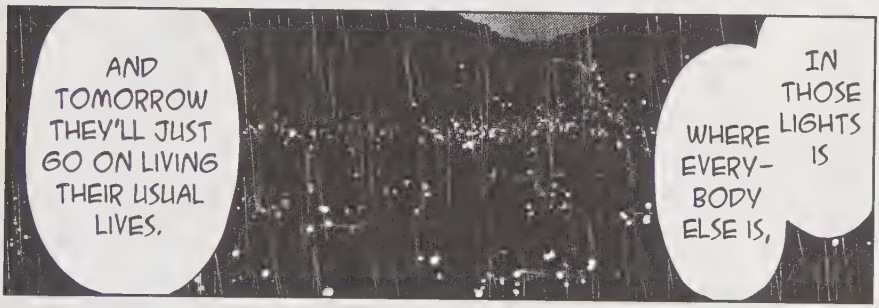

DID YOU SEE THEM ?
A BOY AND A GIRL.

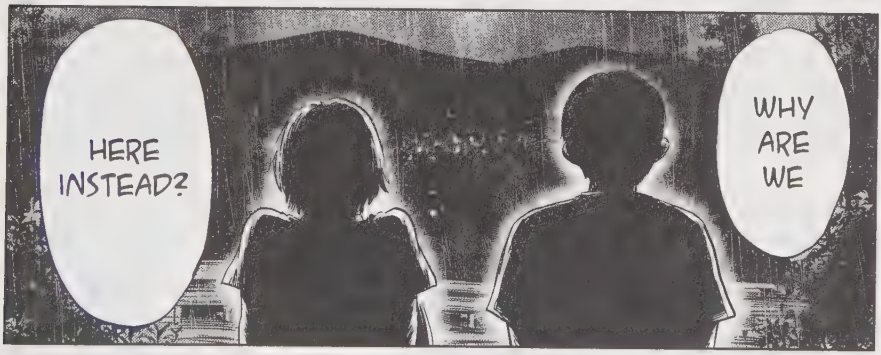
NOT MANY FOLKS COME THIS WAY ON BIKES, SO I REMEMBER IT.
'BOUT AN HOUR AGO, ON A BIKE.
YEAH, I DID.

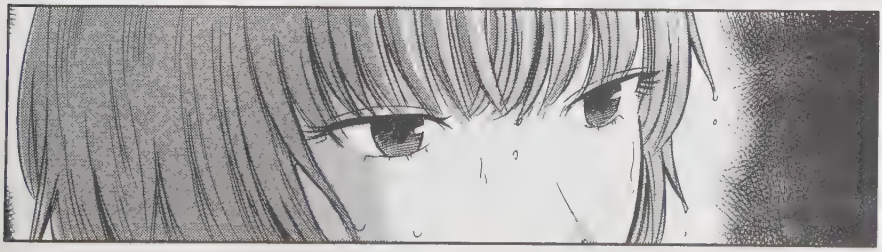

WHICH WAY? WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
R— REALLY ?!

IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE PERVS.
WHY ELSE?
I SEE.
I GUESS... IT'S NOT SO BAD, BEING A PERVERT.
I FEEL KINDA... GOOD, RIGHT NOW.
SHAAAAA

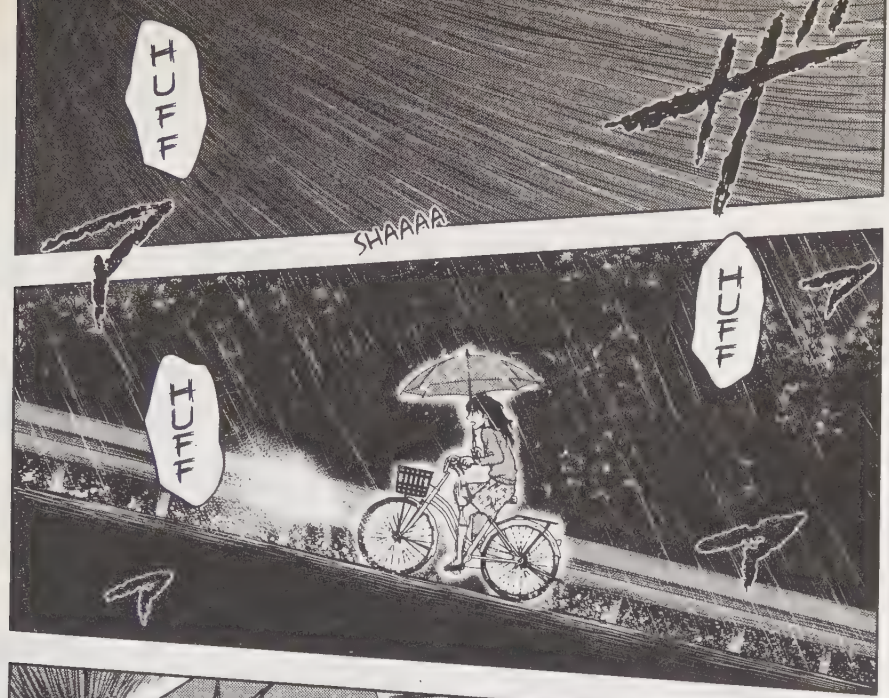

HM?

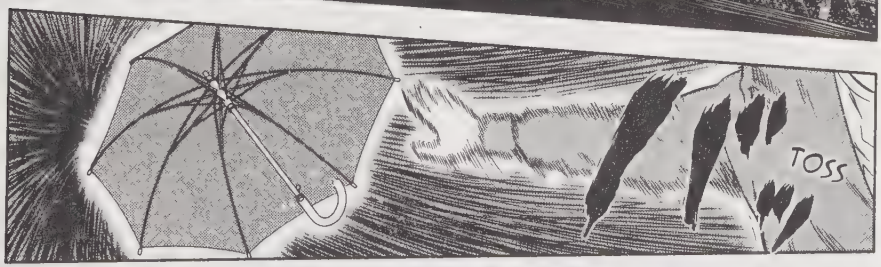

AND TOMORROW THEY'LL JUST GO ON LIVING THEIR USUAL LIVES.
WHERE EVERY-BODY ELSE IS,
IN THOSE LIGHTS IS


HERE INSTEAD?
WHY ARE WE

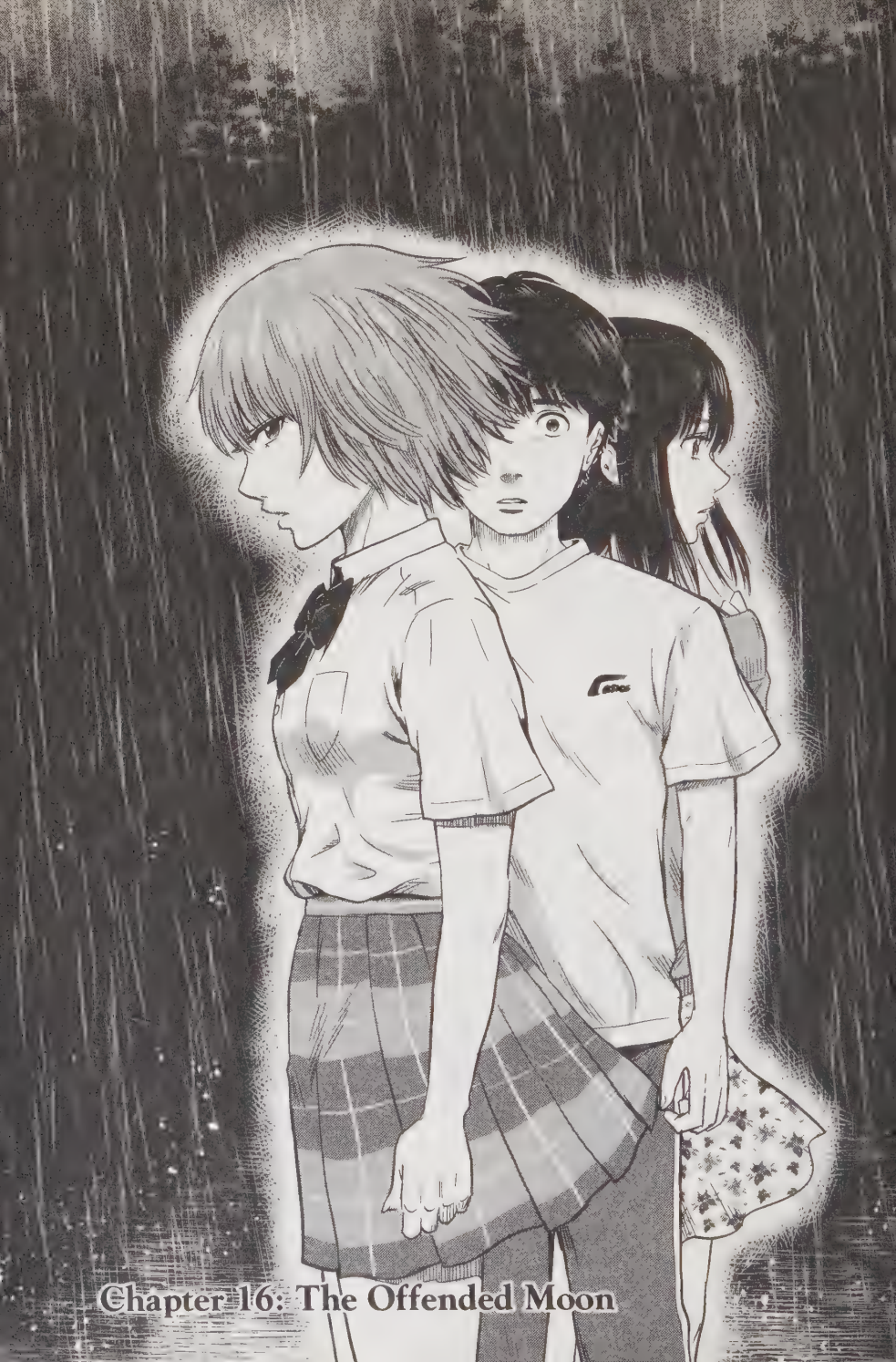


THANK YOU, NAKA-MURA,
FOR MAKING ME COME WITH YOU.
はあっ
HUFF
はあっ
HUFF
はあっ
HUFF


HUFF
SHAAAA
HUFF
HUFF


TOSS

Ka-suga ...
It's not fair ...
not fair to run away like this ...



Chapter 16: The Offended Moon

Afterword ③

Do you know Bob Dylan? I'm sure you've at least heard his name. Maybe you recall some guy from a bygone past who played the guitar while blowing a harmonica? Who was kinda serious? Sort of a protest singer or something? That guy your uncle—or rather, your gramps likes?
Is he alive? A historical personage?
That's probably what most of you think when you hear the name Bob Dylan. I love him. When I said in middle school that I liked Bob Dylan, a rumor started that I liked "T-Bolan," but anyway I really like him.

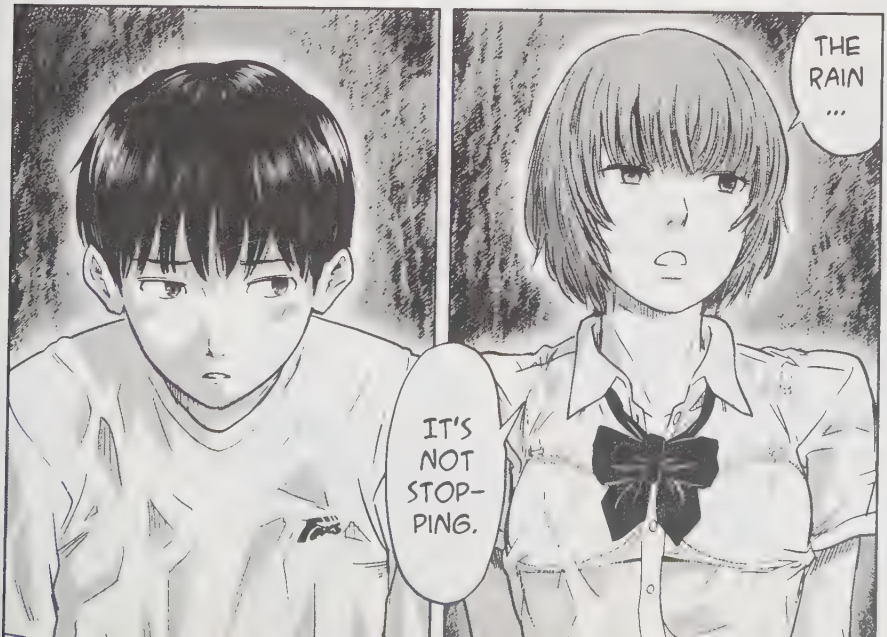
And I guess young people these days wouldn't know T-Bolan, either.

Let's just forget this.

SSHHAAA
...
WHEW ...
FLUMP
CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT THAT.
MIGHT AS WELL SLEEP WHILE WE CAN.

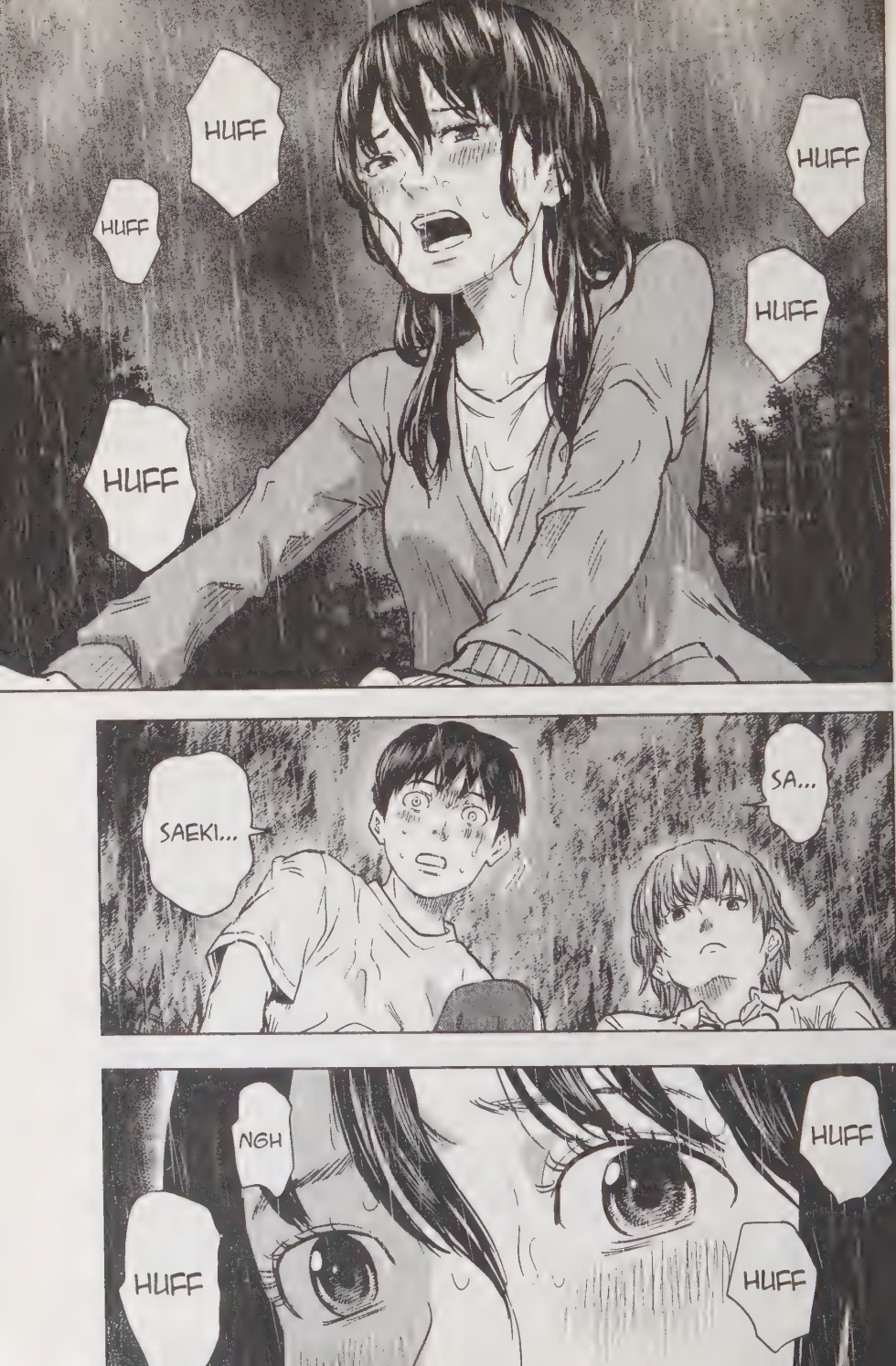
SHAAA

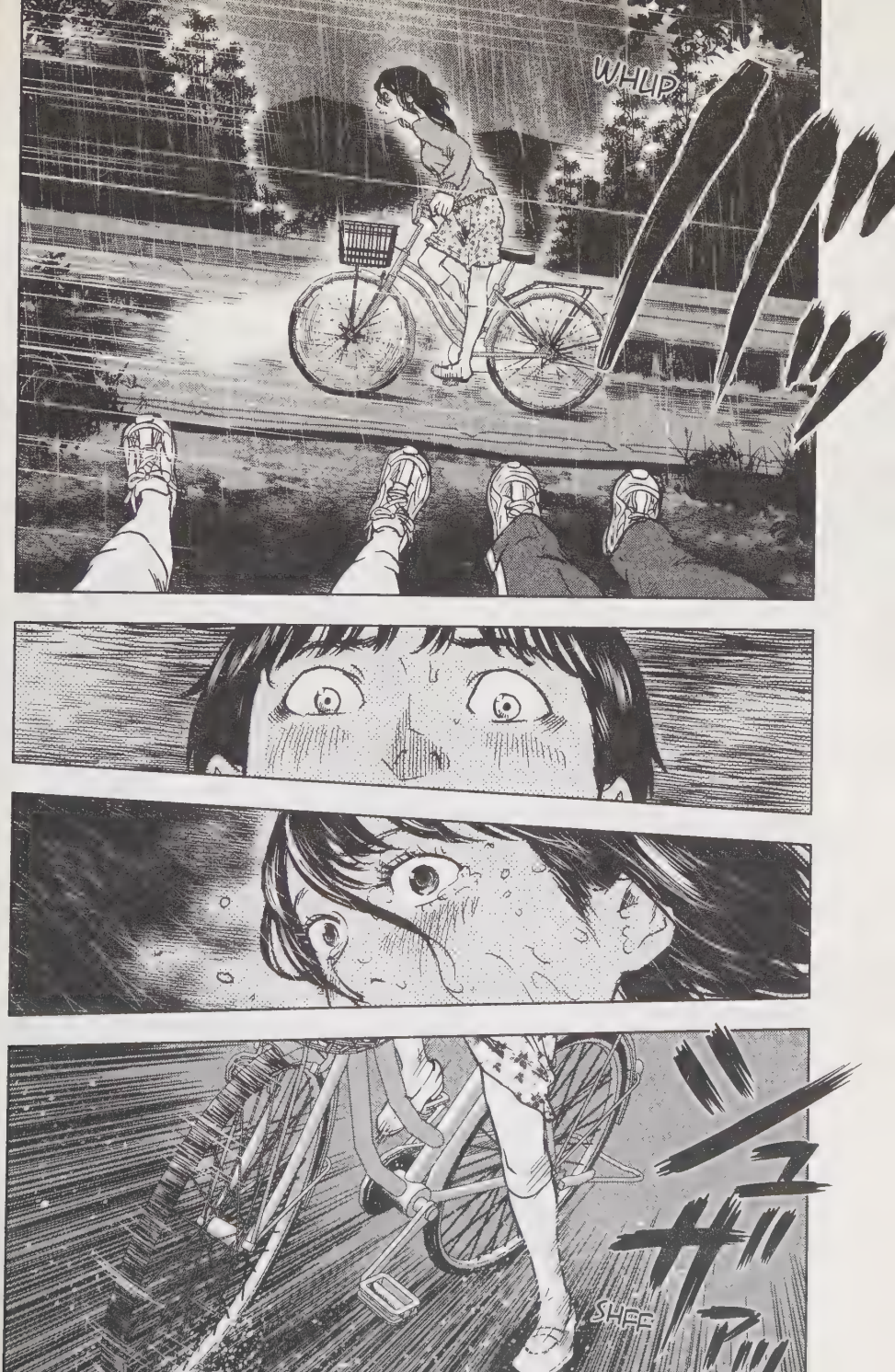
AAAA


THE RAIN ...
IT'S NOT STOP-PING.

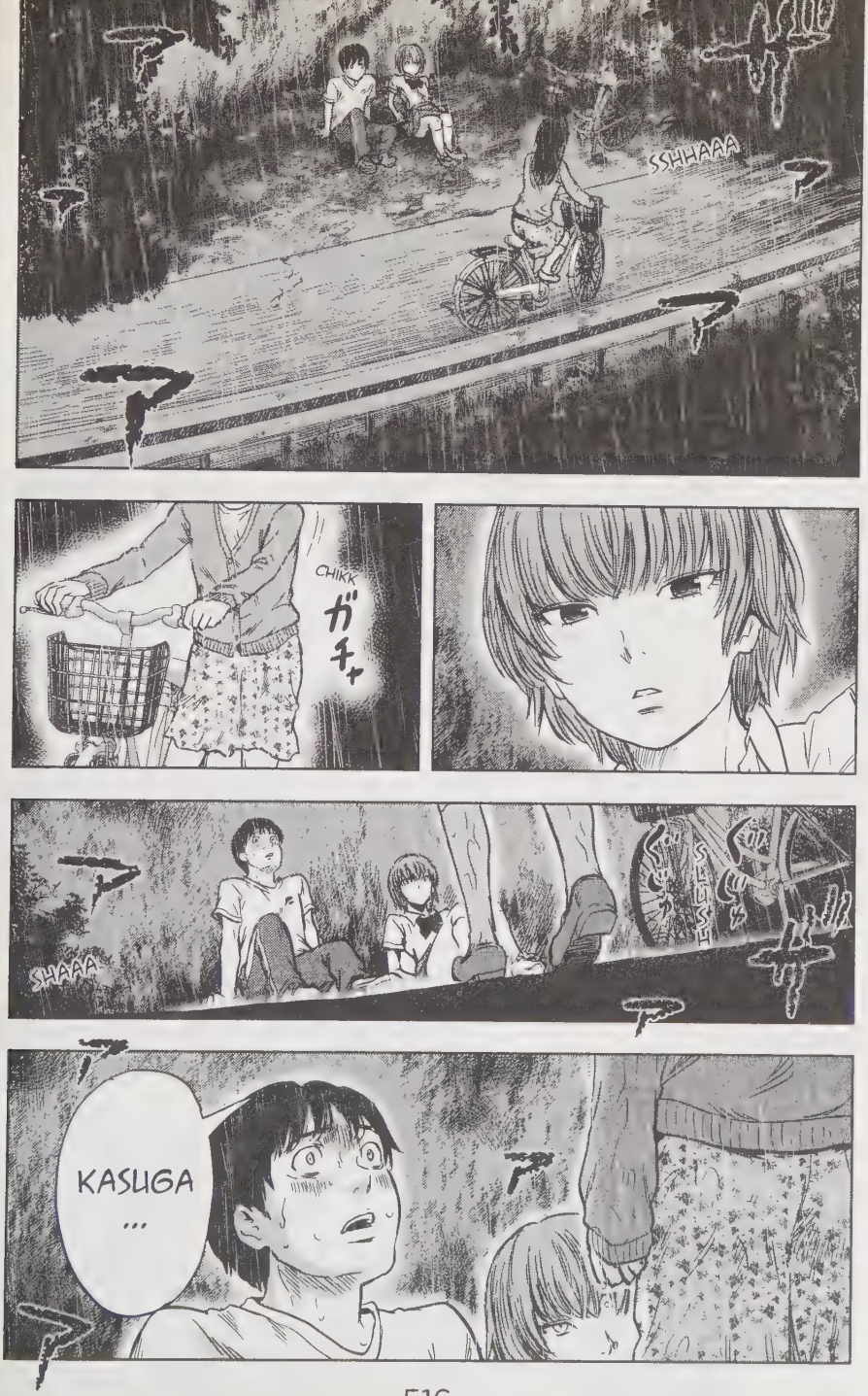
THIS SOUND IS LIKE
THE SOUND A TOWN MAKES SINKING INTO A SEA OF SHITBUGS ...
PSSSHHT
NAKA-MURA ...
GASP
GASP

C'MON, KASUGA.
WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.
UH ...
Y-YEAH ...
SSHHAAA
SSHHAAA


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SAEKI...
SA...
NGH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

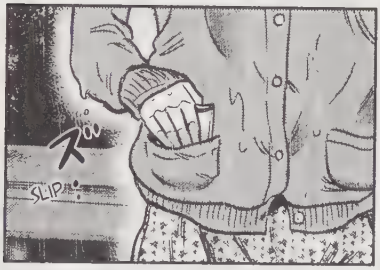

WHUP
SHEE

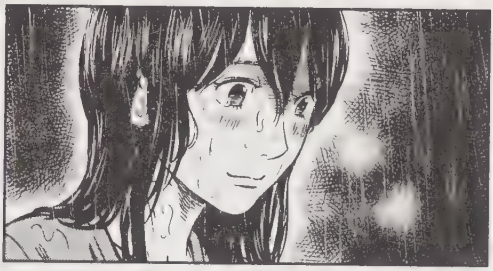
I'm sorry, okay?
HUFF
HUFF
I was the one who... cornered you... right?
I'M SORRY ...
ぎゅっ
GRAB
I'M SO SORRY ...

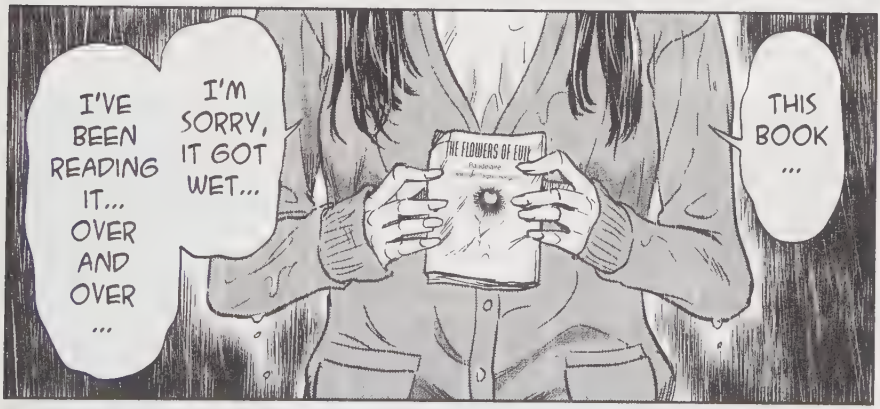

SSHHAAA
CHIKK
ガチャ
SLUSH
SHAAA
KASUGA
...

tion: Daigaku Horiguchi
KASUGA ...
WHAT ABOUT THIS BOOK DO YOU LIKE?
CAN YOU TELL ME?
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
Baudelaire
PLEASE, TELL ME ... DON'T RUN AWAY ...
WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OF YOU?
SO WHY DO YOU RUN TO NAKAMURA ?
WE'RE GOING OUT ...

WHY ... WHY ?
SAEKI ...


SLIP

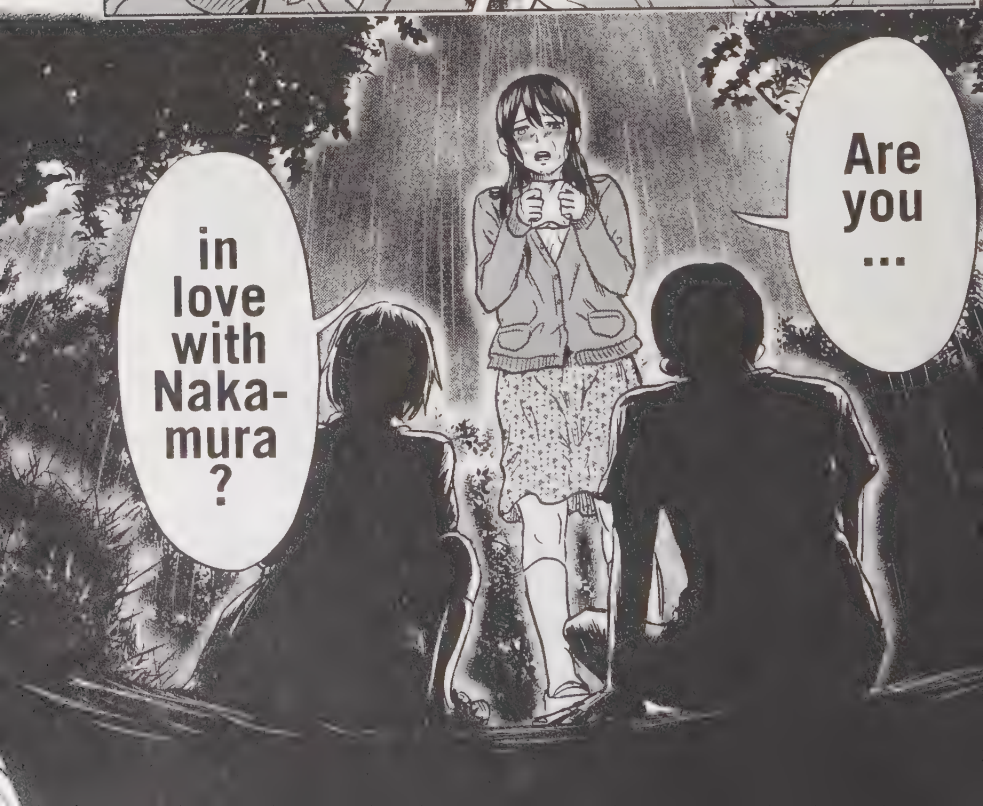



I'M SORRY, IT GOT WET...
I'VE BEEN READING IT... OVER AND OVER ...
THIS BOOK ...
THE FLOWERS OF EVIL

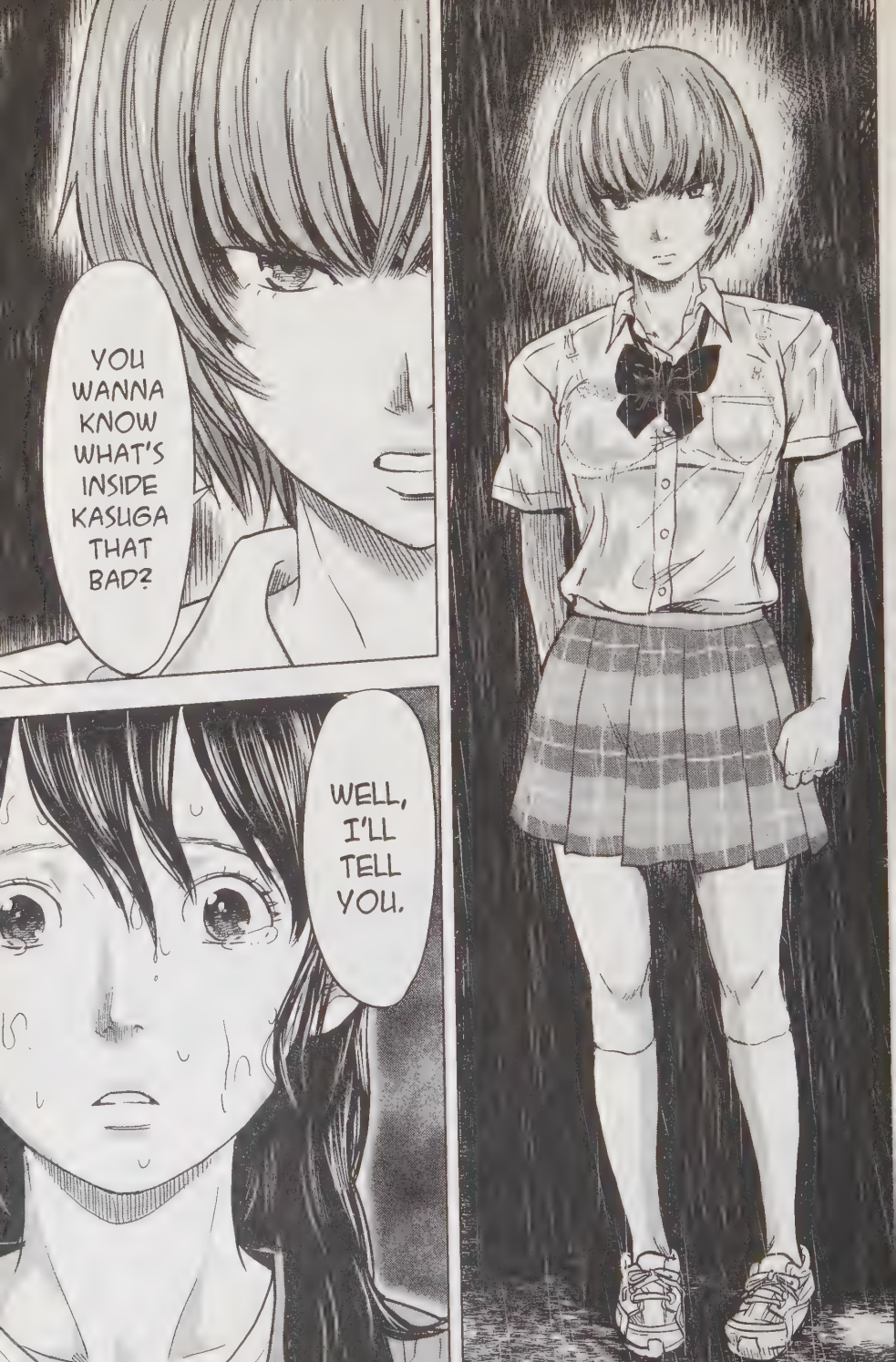
I DON'T GET WHY YOU LIKE IT, KASUGA...
I DON'T REALLY GET IT ...
IT'S STILL PRETTY HARD ...

NO
...
NO, I...
...
...
...
SSHHAAA

THE FLOWERS OF EVIL
GRIP
ぎゅっ
I
JUST
...

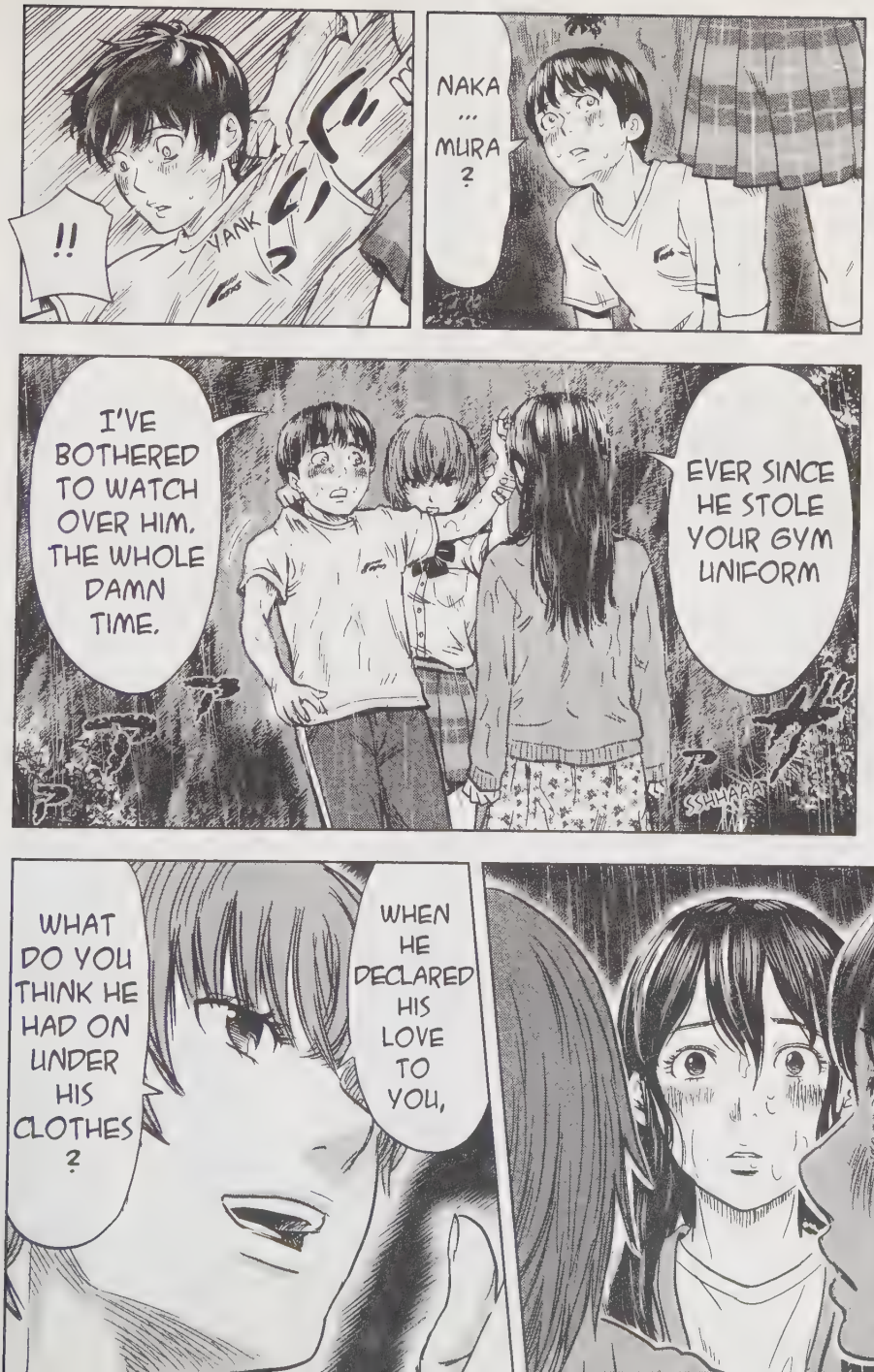

Are you ...
in love with Naka-mura ?

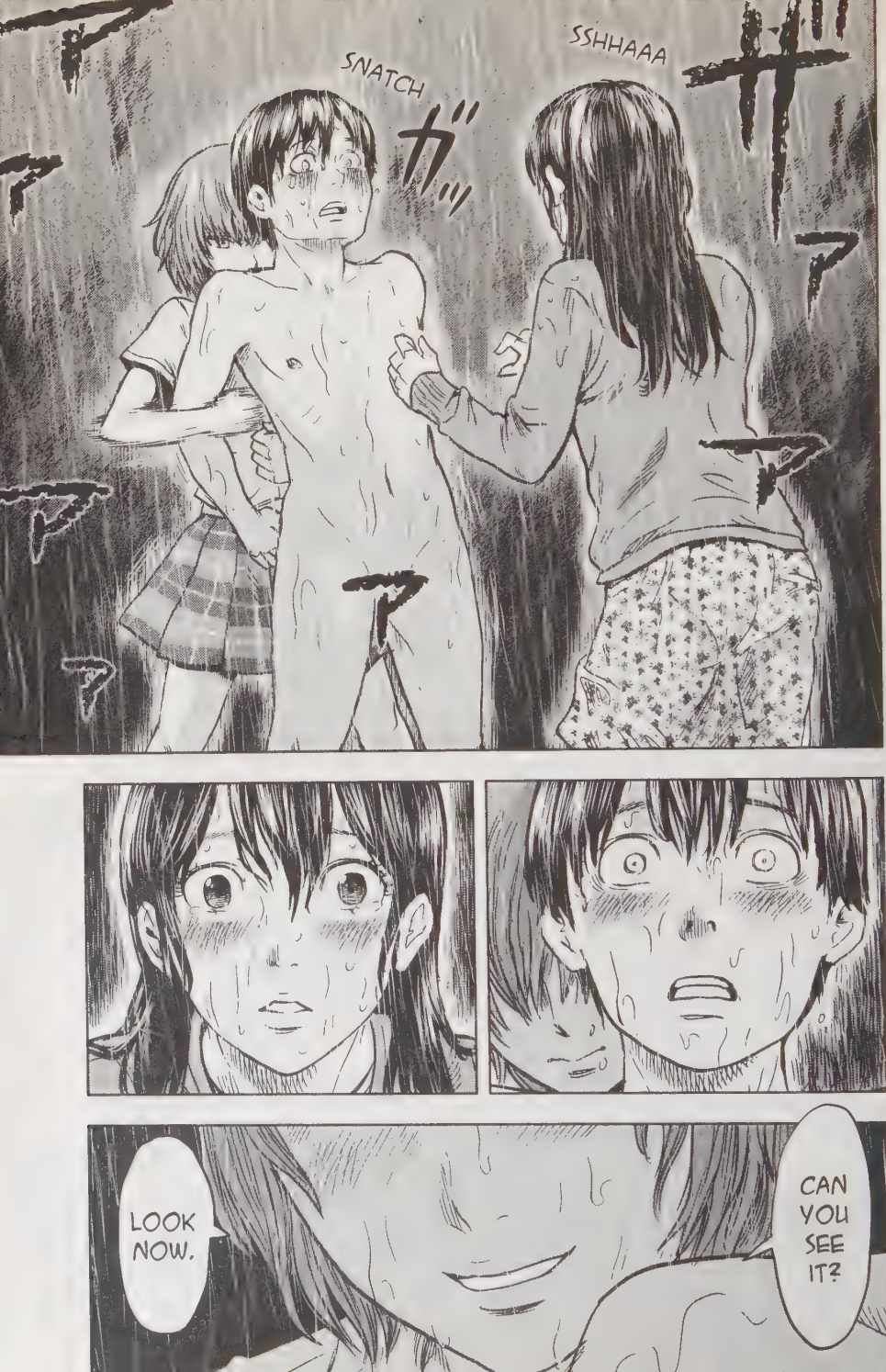
SHAAA
RISE
IT'S ABOUT "THE OTHER SIDE."
I'M GOING TO "THE OTHER SIDE."
KASUGA'S COMING ALONG WITH ME.
OTHER SIDE?
WHAT'S ... THE OTHER SIDE?
KA-SUGA ...


YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE KASUGA THAT BAD?
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.

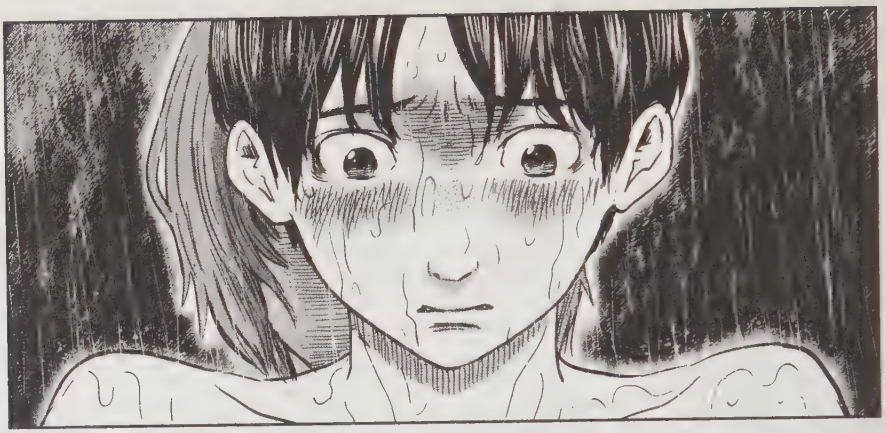
HUH ?
N-NO, IT'S NOT ...
RISE

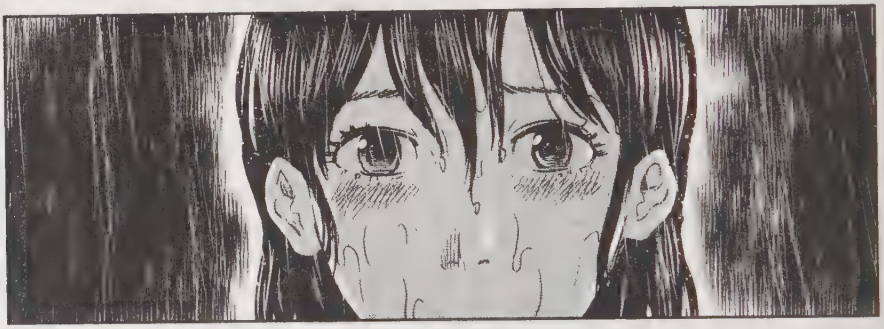
NAKA-
MURA!
NGGH
!
WHIP
ばっ
STRIP
!
STRIP,
DAMN
YOU!
WAAH
!
S-
STOP
IT!

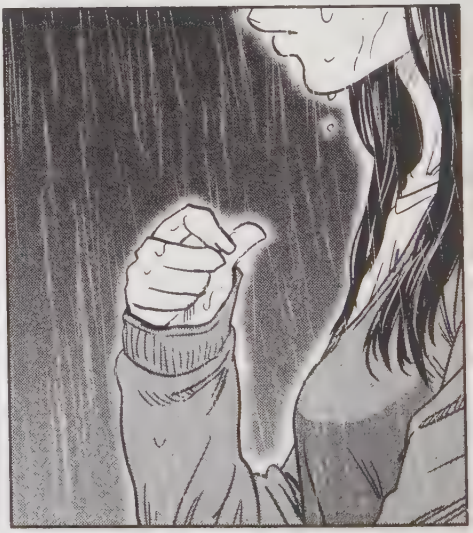

!!
YANK
NAKA
...
MURA
?
I'VE BOTHERED TO WATCH OVER HIM, THE WHOLE DAMN TIME.
EVER SINCE HE STOLE YOUR GYM UNIFORM
SSHHAAA
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE HAD ON UNDER HIS CLOTHES ?
WHEN HE DECLARED HIS LOVE TO YOU,


SNATCH
ガッ
SSHHAAA
LOOK NOW.
CAN YOU SEE IT?

Wrapped in your shitty gym uniform that he'd sniffed to the max and rubbed all over himself, he was twitching hard!!
On that garbage date!! When he spilled his scrappy guts to you !!!
ZLIP

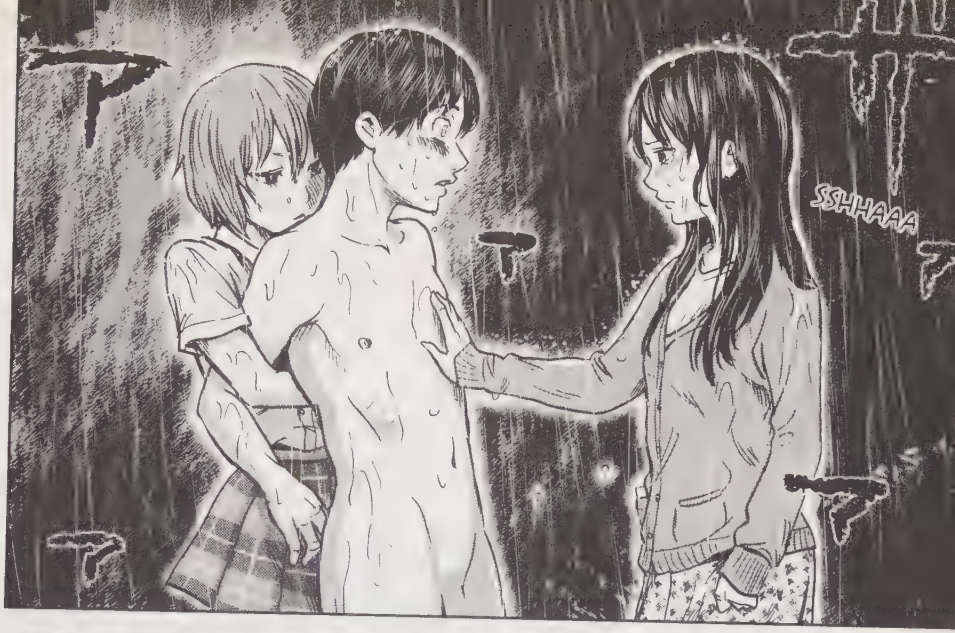


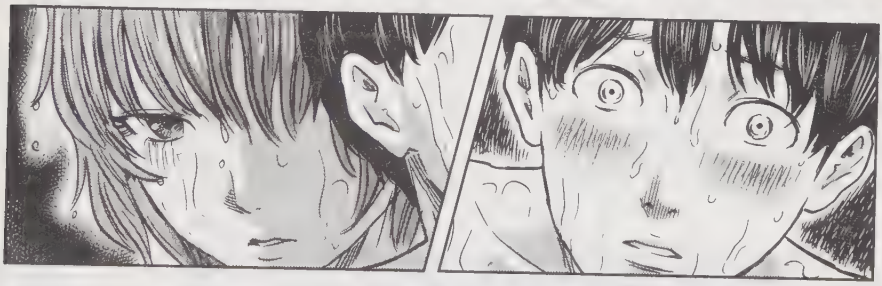




IT'S STUCK ON HIS REAL BODY UNDER HIS PEELED SKIN.
2-1 Saeki
HIS HEART'S WEARING THEM ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S WHY HE'S A TRUE-BLUE PERVERT.
HE CAN LAY IT ALL BARE.

BUT !
Try me! I can take it!
If there's a you that only Naka-mura knows ...
tell me all there is to know!


SSHHAAA

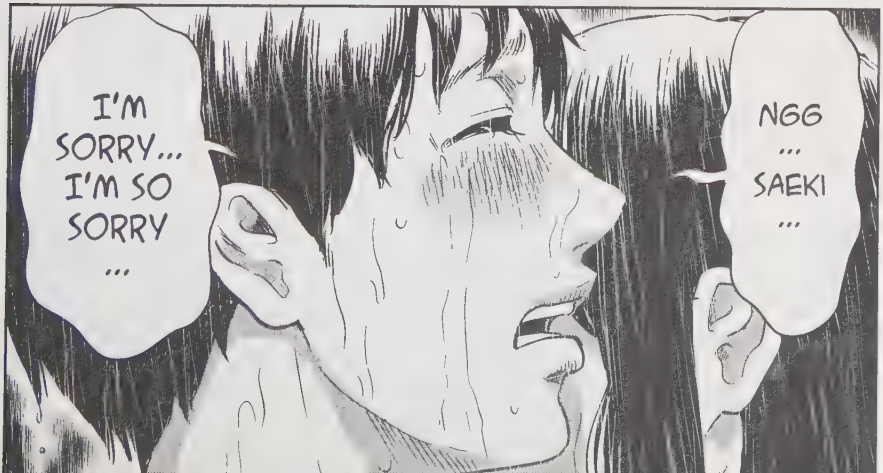


I DON'T CARE WHAT HE DID IF HE DID IT BECAUSE HE CARES FOR ME.
I'M GLAD ...
IT WON'T MAKE ME THINK THAT HE'S A PERVERT!

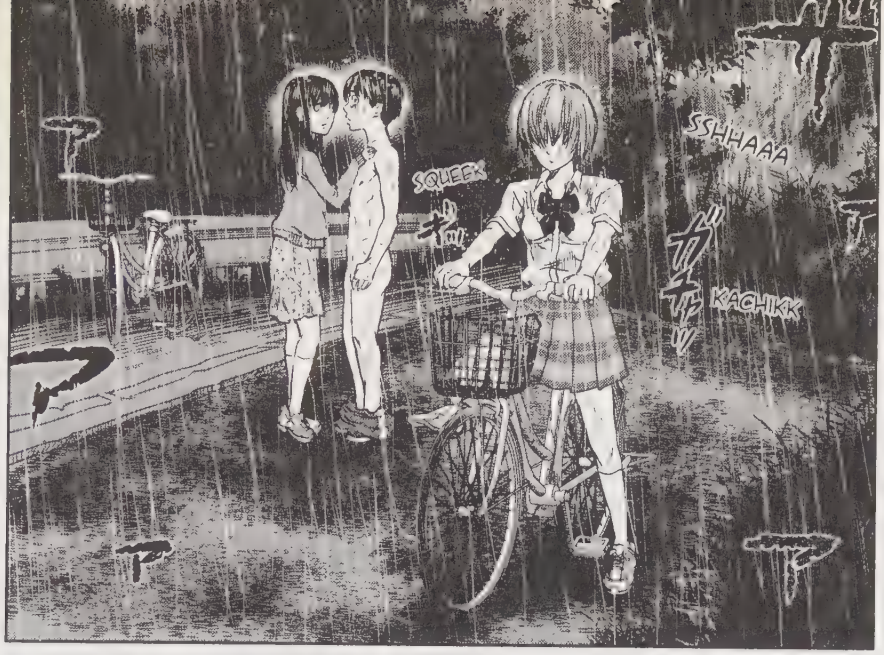
SHE

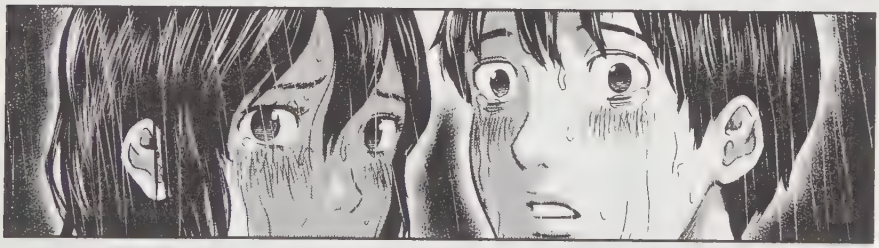
LET'S GO HOME, OKAY? TOGETHER ...

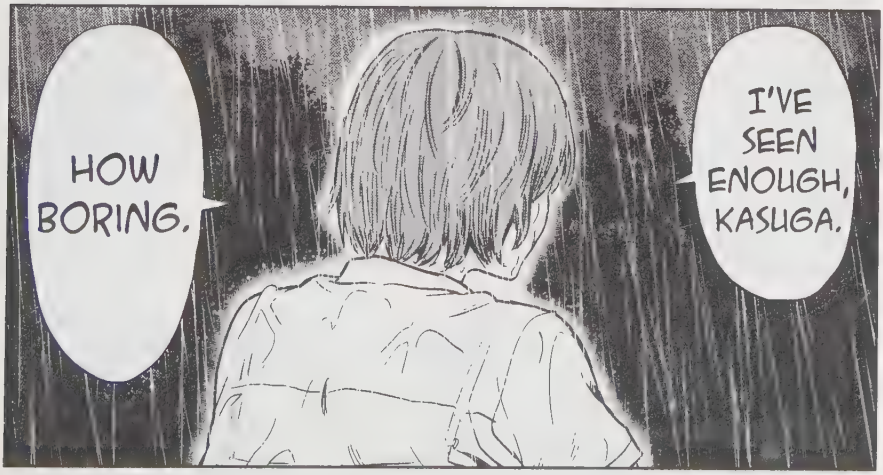
SSHAAA


I'M SORRY... I'M SO SORRY ...
NGG ... SAEKI ...

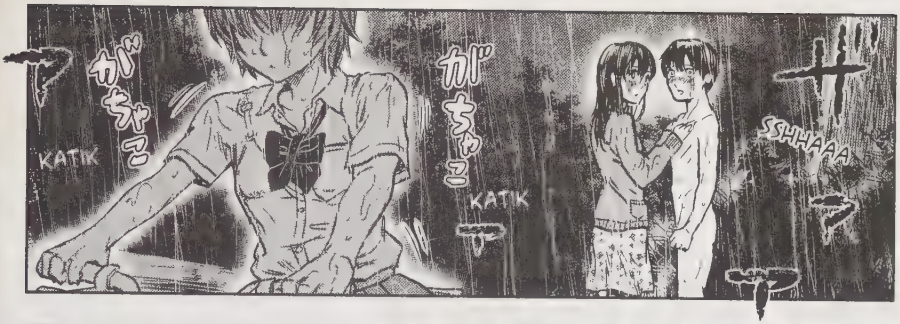
NAKA-
MU—
CRAWL OFF AND LIVE, IN THIS TOWN,
AS A SHITBUG ALL YOUR LIFE.
CHAK

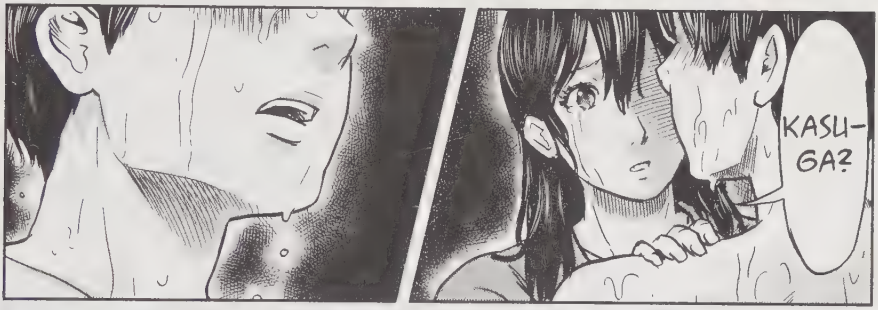

SQUEEK
SSHHAAA
KACHIKK

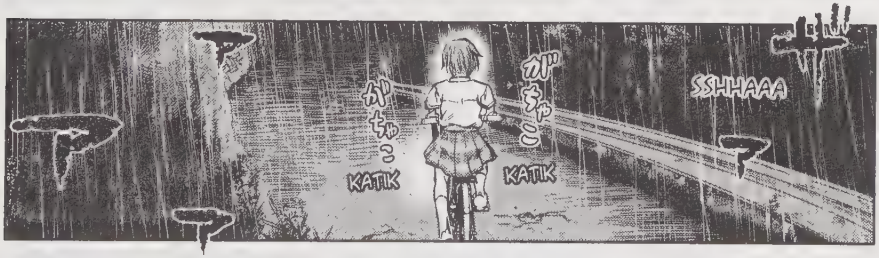


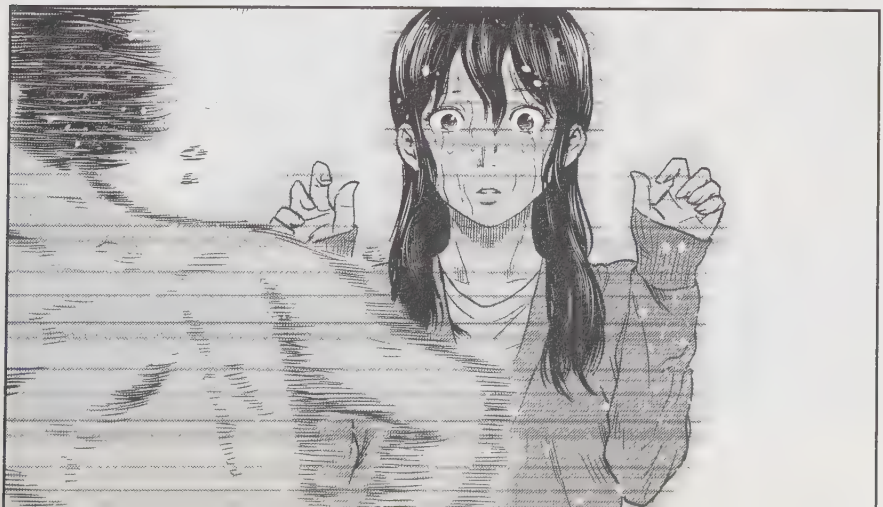

HOW BORING.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, KASUGA.

DASH
Na–
Naka-
mura
!!
GRAB

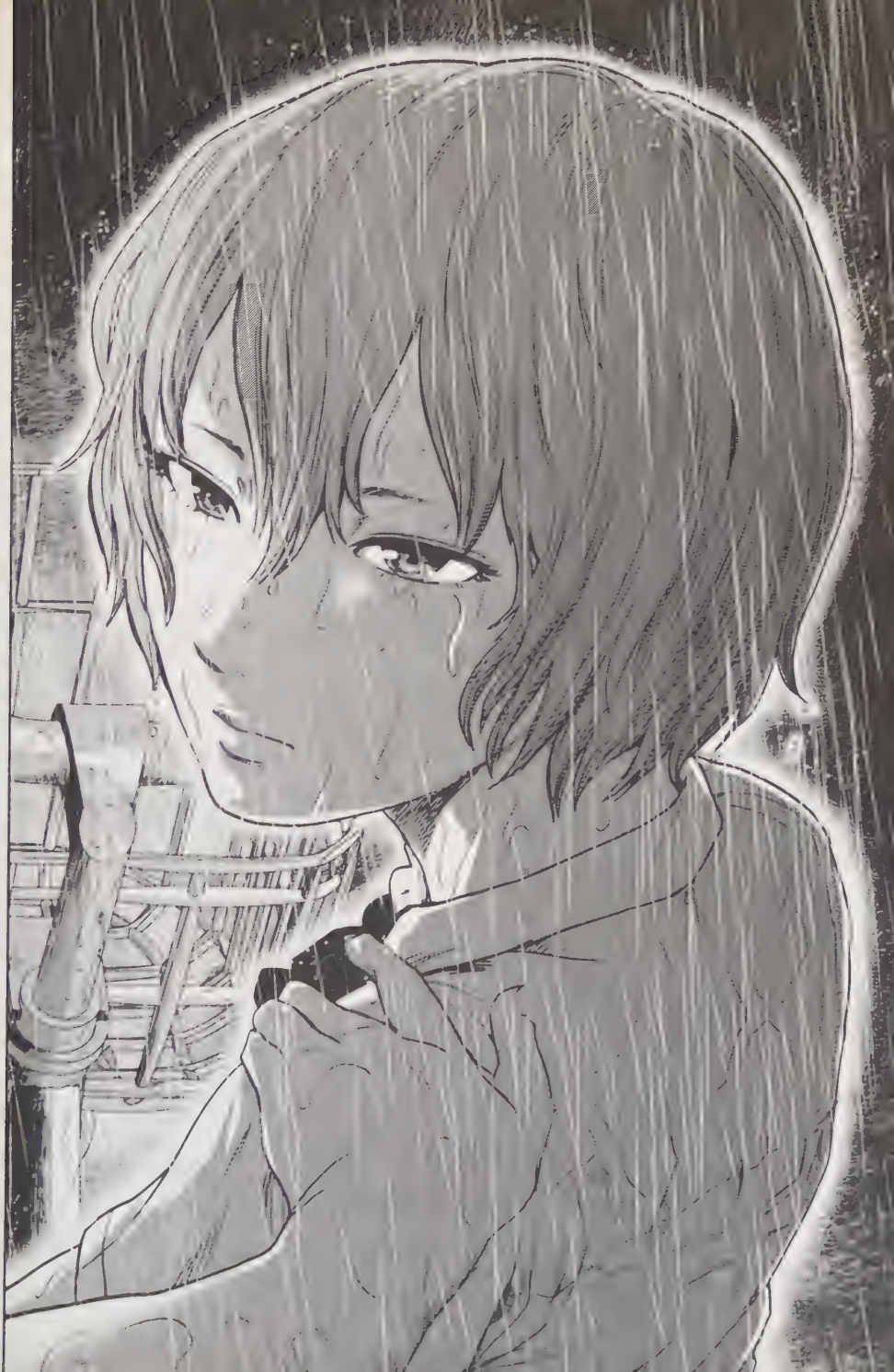

ガちゃこ
KATIK
ガちゃこ
KATIK
SSHHAAA


KASU-GA?


ガちゃこ
KATIK
ガちゃこ
KATIK
SSHHAAA



KASUGA
!!
KASUGA
!!!



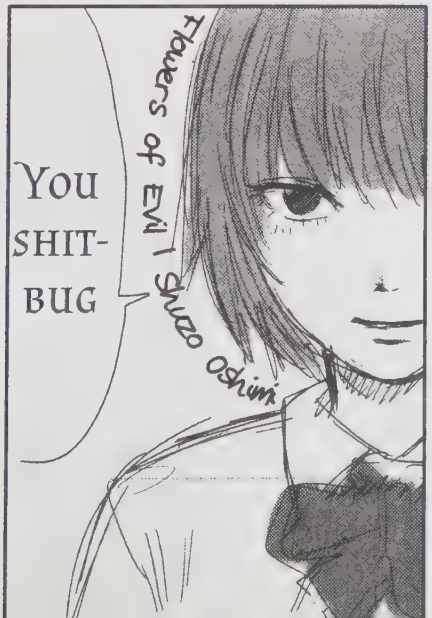
Chapter 17: De Profundis

Afterword ④

When the first collected volume of this manga was going to get published, we started talking about the cover.

The idea that popped into my head while discussing it with my editor was to have a big dialogue balloon. Nakamura would naturally be the face, and she could only be saying "You Shitbug." [Sorry we couldn't do this for the English edition. -Vertical] And so it came together, just like that.

I told the designer about it, who very kindly sent me a bunch of layouts, but in the end we went with the simplest one, which is on the books right now.



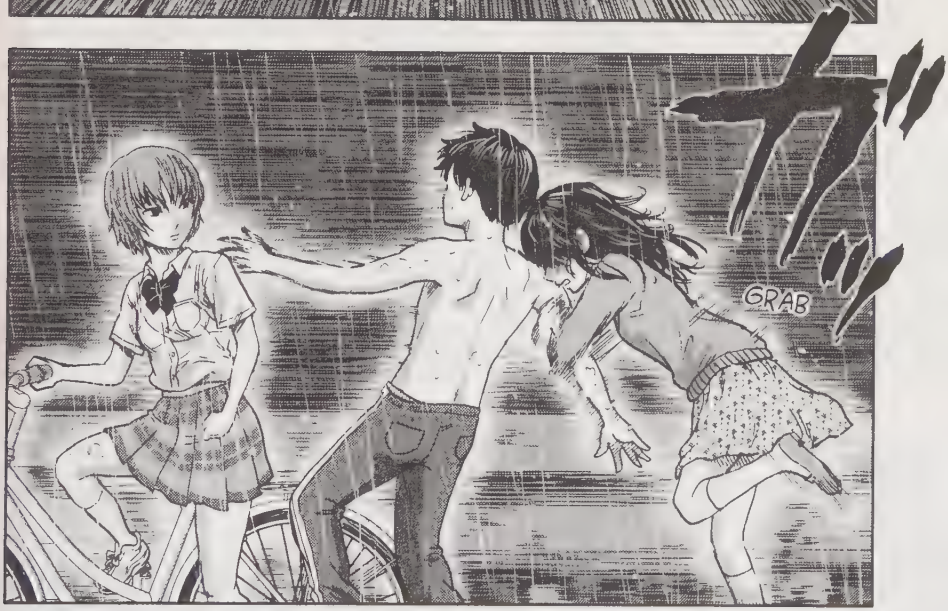
This is the first rough sketch I did.

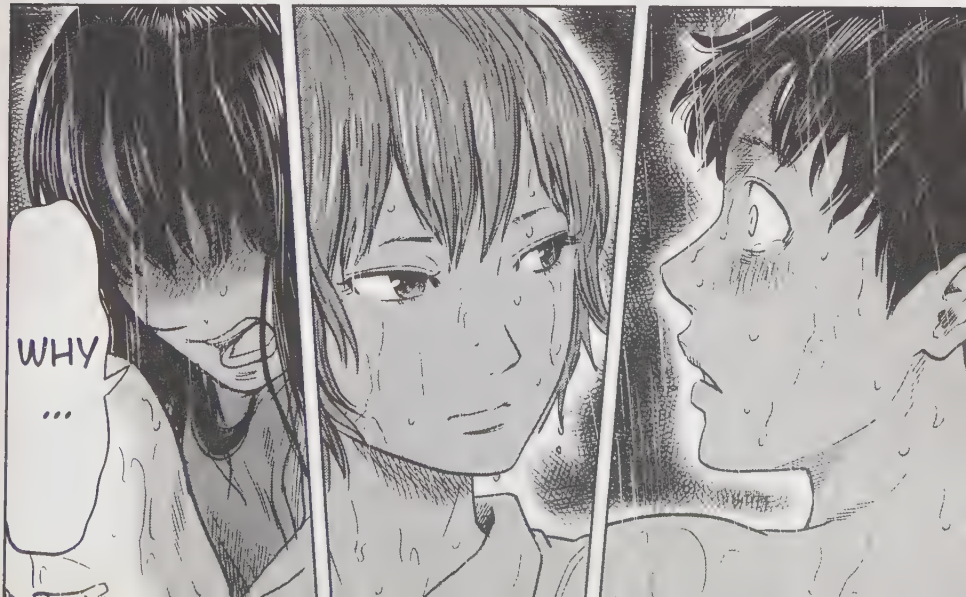
SSHHAAAA
WHAT?
NAKA-MURA...

SSHHAAAAA

WHY ARE YOU CHASING AFTER NAKAMURA ?!
WHY ?!
SHAAA

ばしゃ
PLISH
ばしゃ
PLISH
ばしゃ
PLISH

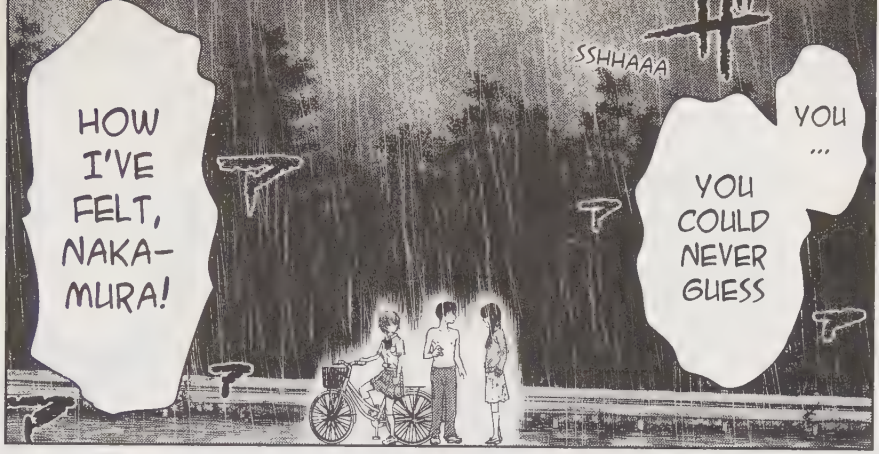

ガッ
GRAB

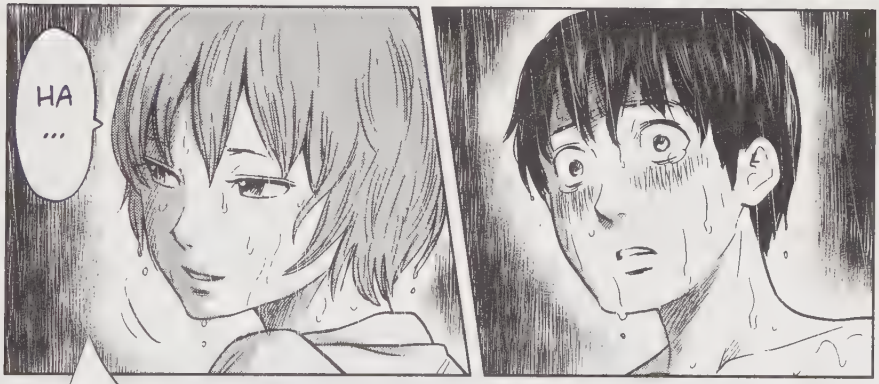

WHY
...

ABSO-
LUTELY
LAME.
LAME.
WHA
...
What's
lame
about
it?!
Wh-

NO?
I JUST DON'T CUT IT?
COULD IT BE THAT
NAKAMURA IS REALLY THE ONE—
N-NO!
MY BODY JUST... MOVED ON ITS OWN ...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ...

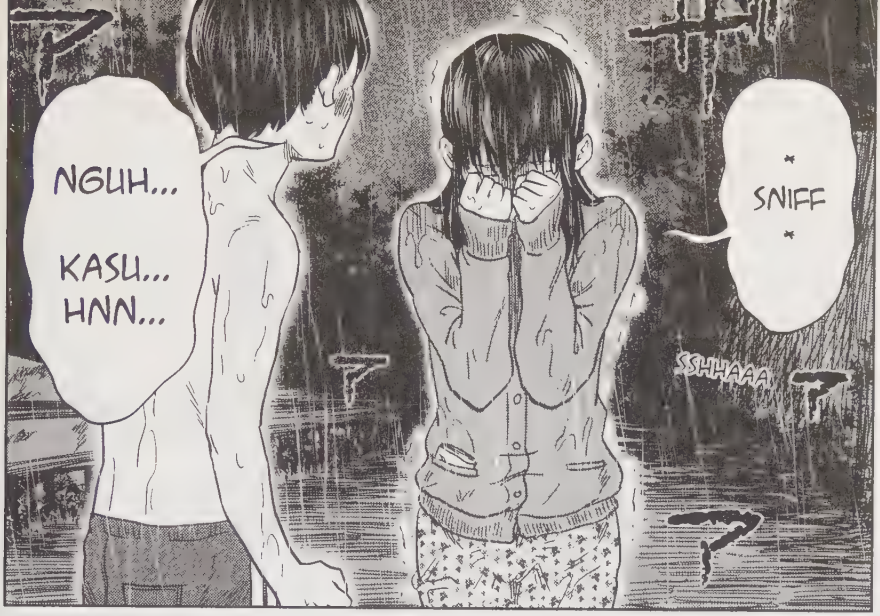
I... I WAS GLAD, IT'S TRUE !!
BECAUSE KASUGA... TURNED A SIMPLE STONE LIKE ME INTO A GEM!
SA
E
KI ...
SO WHY ?
WHY DO I HAVE TO...

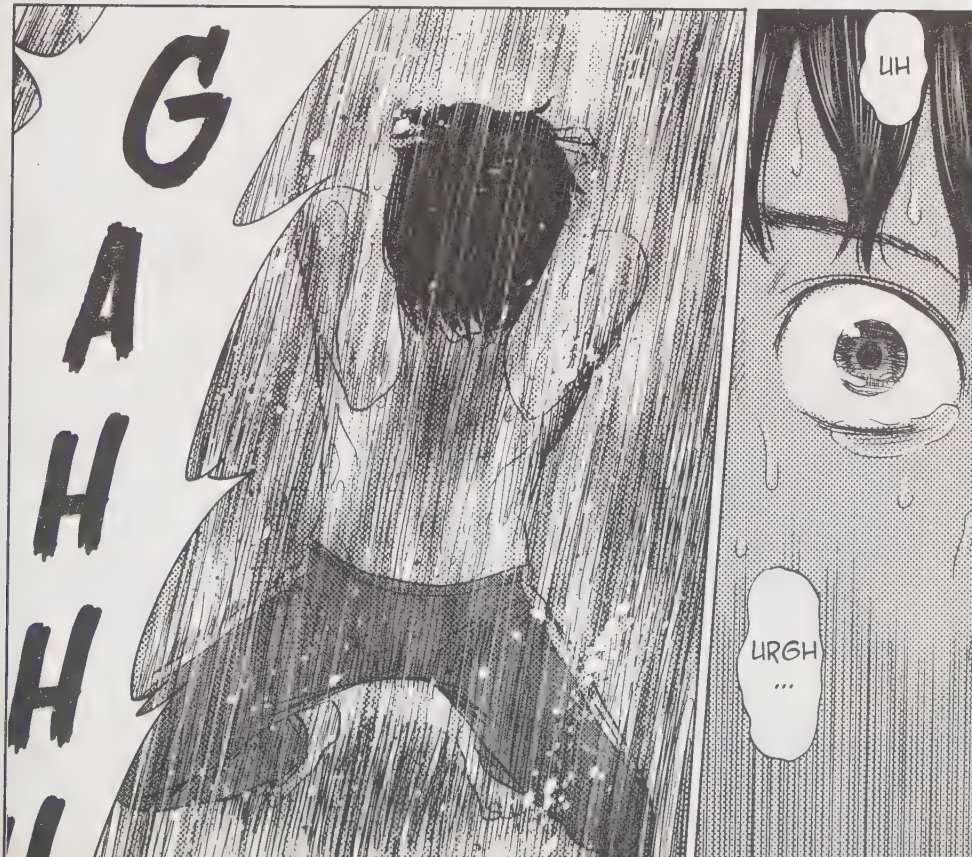

SSHHAAA
YOU ...
YOU COULD NEVER GUESS
HOW I'VE FELT, NAKA-MURA!

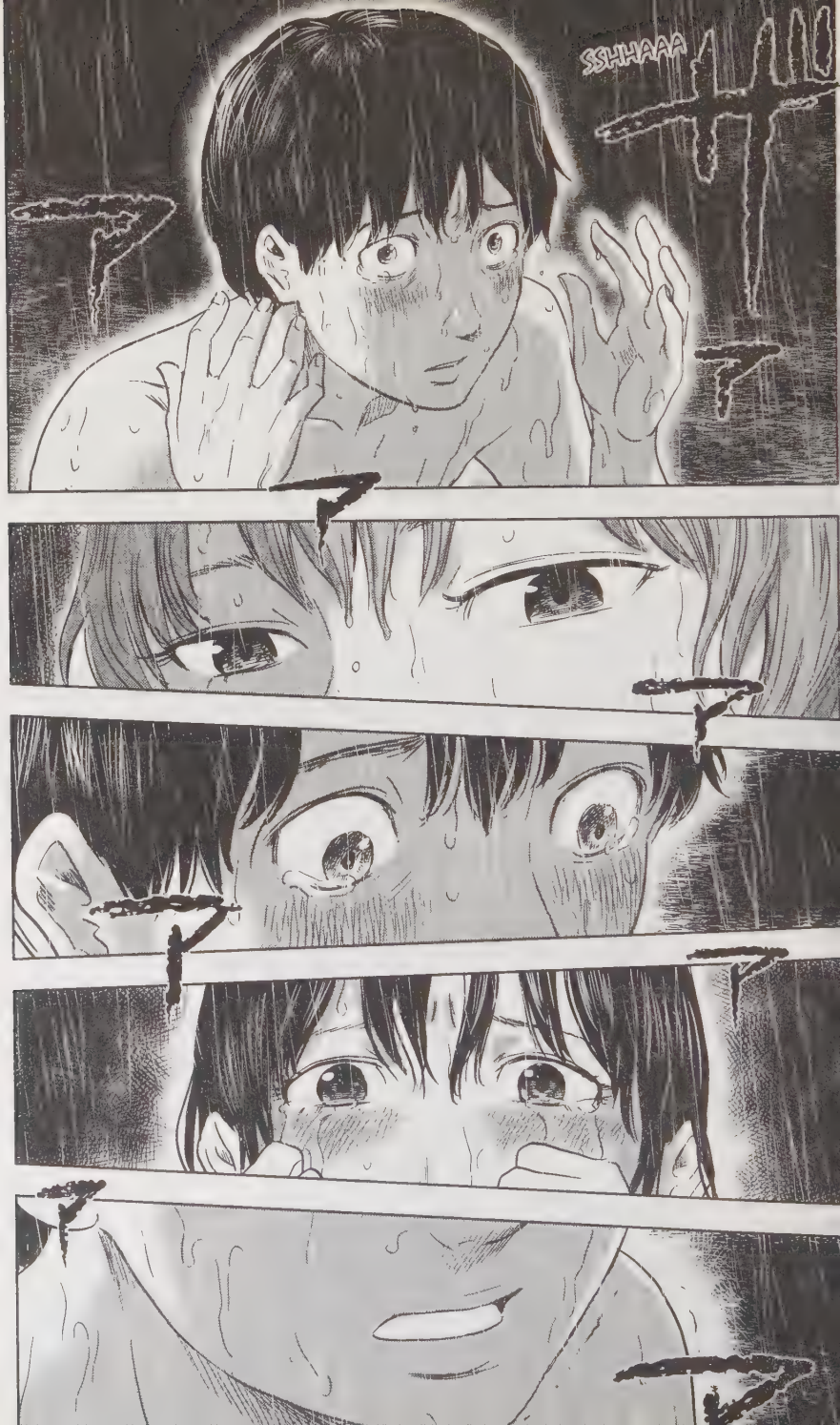

HA ...

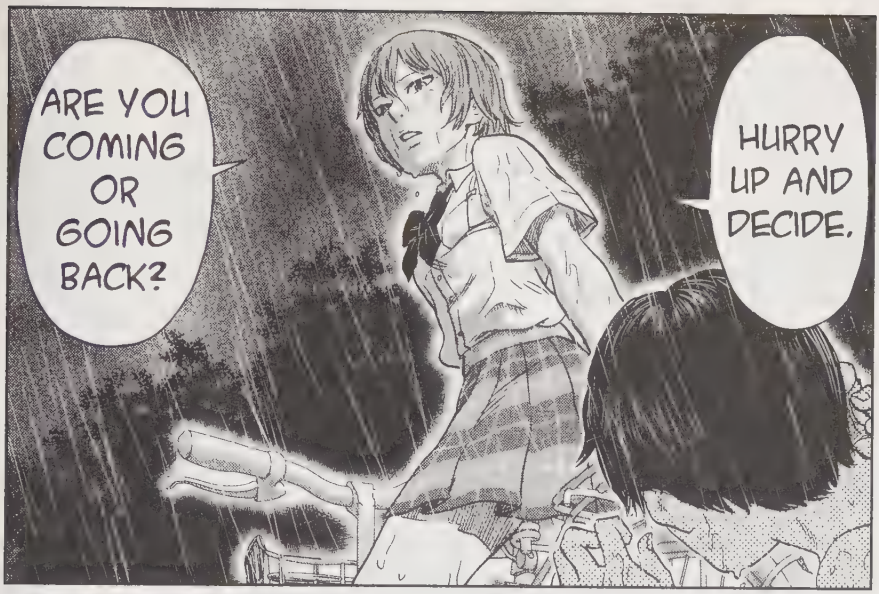
Don't you dare laugh !!!
Don't laugh !!

KASU-
GA.
AAH
HH
NGG
KASUGA
!!

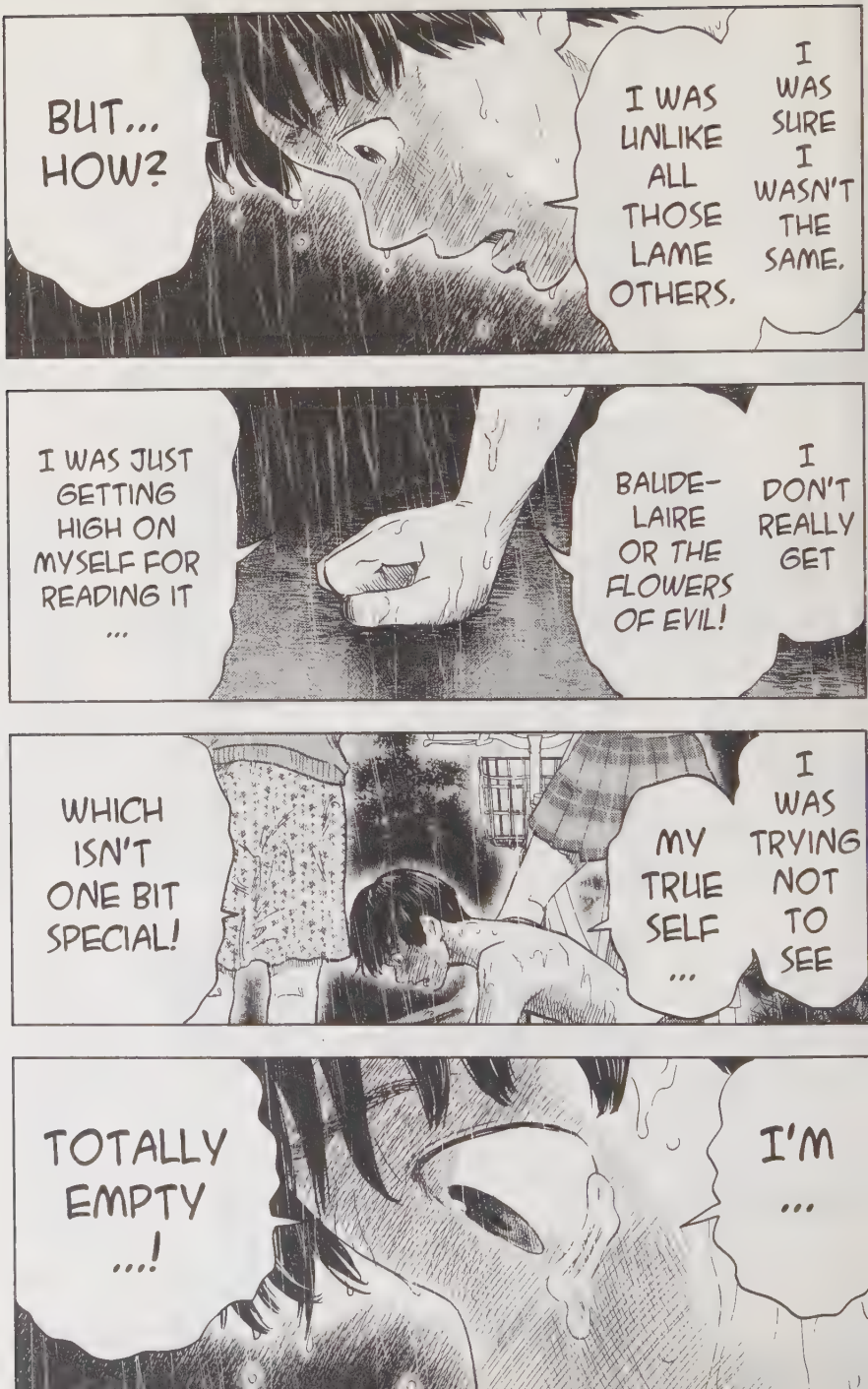

NGUH...
KASU...
HNN...
*
SNIFF
*
SSHHAAA


GAHH
UH
URGH
...

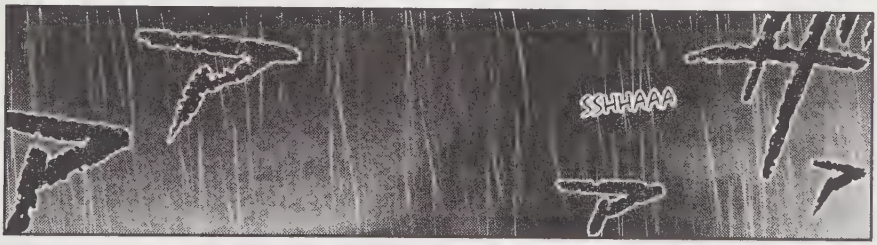

SSHHAAA

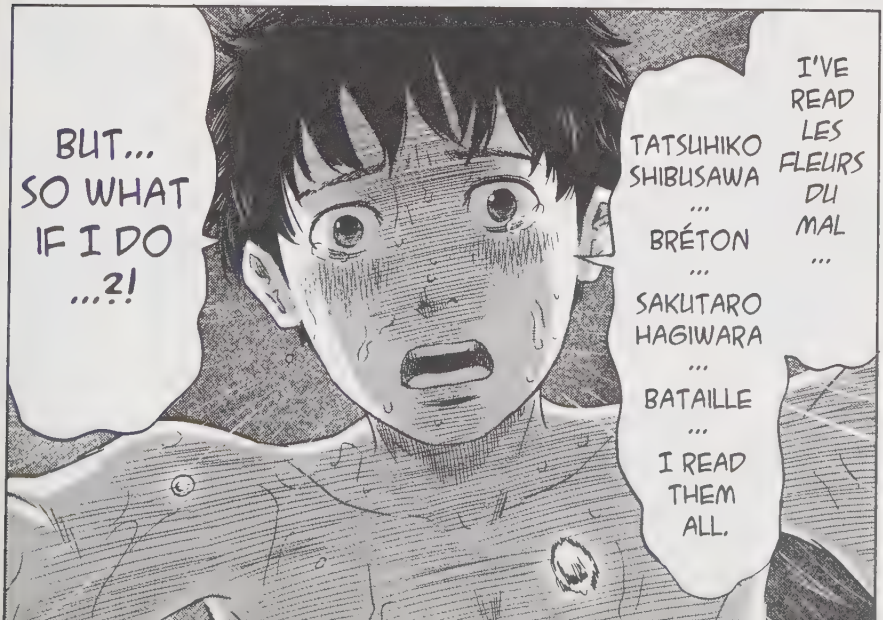

ARE YOU COMING OR GOING BACK?
HURRY UP AND DECIDE.

MUCK UP MY SOUL MORE THAN THIS.
DON'T


I WAS SURE I WASN'T THE SAME.
I WAS UNLIKE ALL THOSE LAME OTHERS.
BUT... HOW?
I DON'T REALLY GET
BAUDE-LAIRE OR THE FLOWERS OF EVIL!
I WAS JUST GETTING HIGH ON MYSELF FOR READING IT ...
I WAS TRYING NOT TO SEE
MY TRUE SELF ...
WHICH ISN'T ONE BIT SPECIAL!
I'M ...
TOTALLY EMPTY ...!

I-
I'M
...
EMPTY
...


SSHHAAA

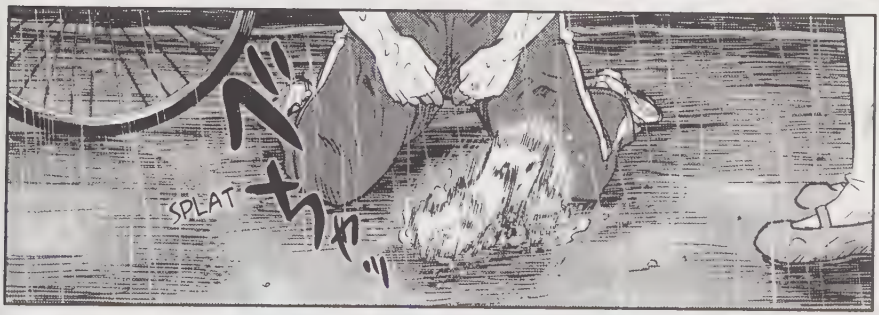

I'VE READ LES FLEURS DU MAL ...
TATSUHIKO SHIBUSAWA ... BRÉTON ... SAKUTARO HAGIWARA ... BATAILLE ... I READ THEM ALL.
BUT... SO WHAT IF I DO ...?!

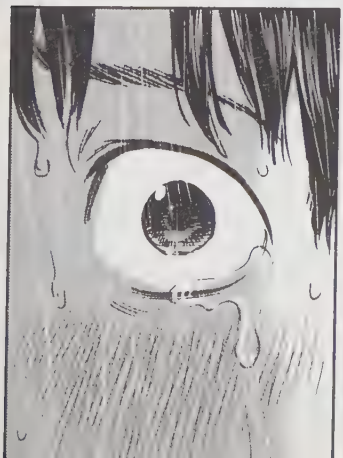
I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN HOPING I AM, NAKAMURA ...
I CAN'T BARE WHAT'S IN ME ...
THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE OF ME TO BARE!
I'M A SHIT-BUG!
I'M THE WORST SHITBUG OF THEM ALL!
I CAN'T CHOOSE! I CAN'T DO SUCH A THING!
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT !!!

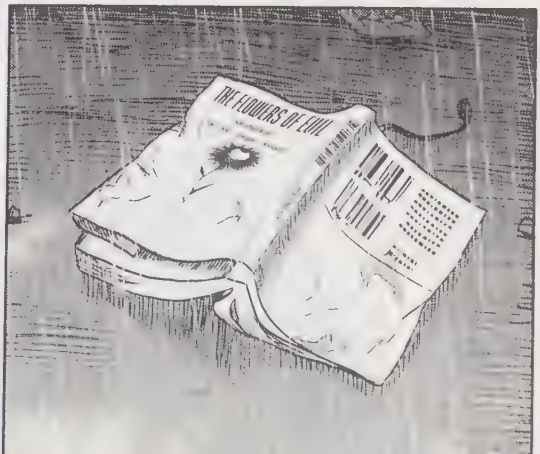
SAEKI ...
I LOVED YOU FROM AFAR...
CALLED YOU MY MUSE... MY ANGEL...
AND I WANTED YOU TO STAY AN ANGEL.
I NEVER WANTED TO FACE THE REAL YOU, IN THE FLESH! IT'S TOO SCARY!
I CAN'T EVER BE NORMAL... I WON'T EVER KNOW NORMAL LOVE...
BUT... I'M NOT EVEN A PERVERT!

SSHHAA
FINE.
FOR-
GET
IT.
CRASH

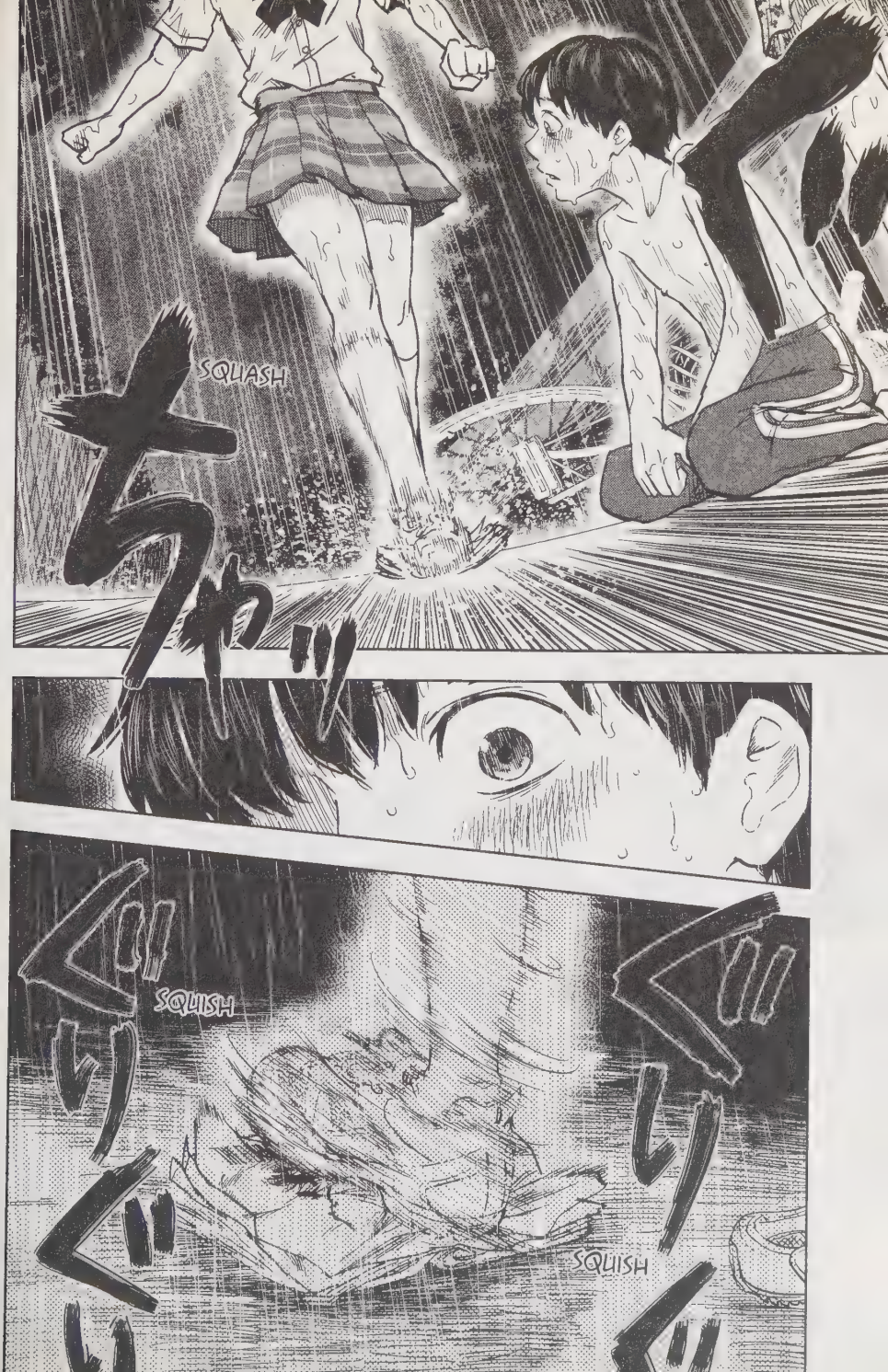
SSHHAAA

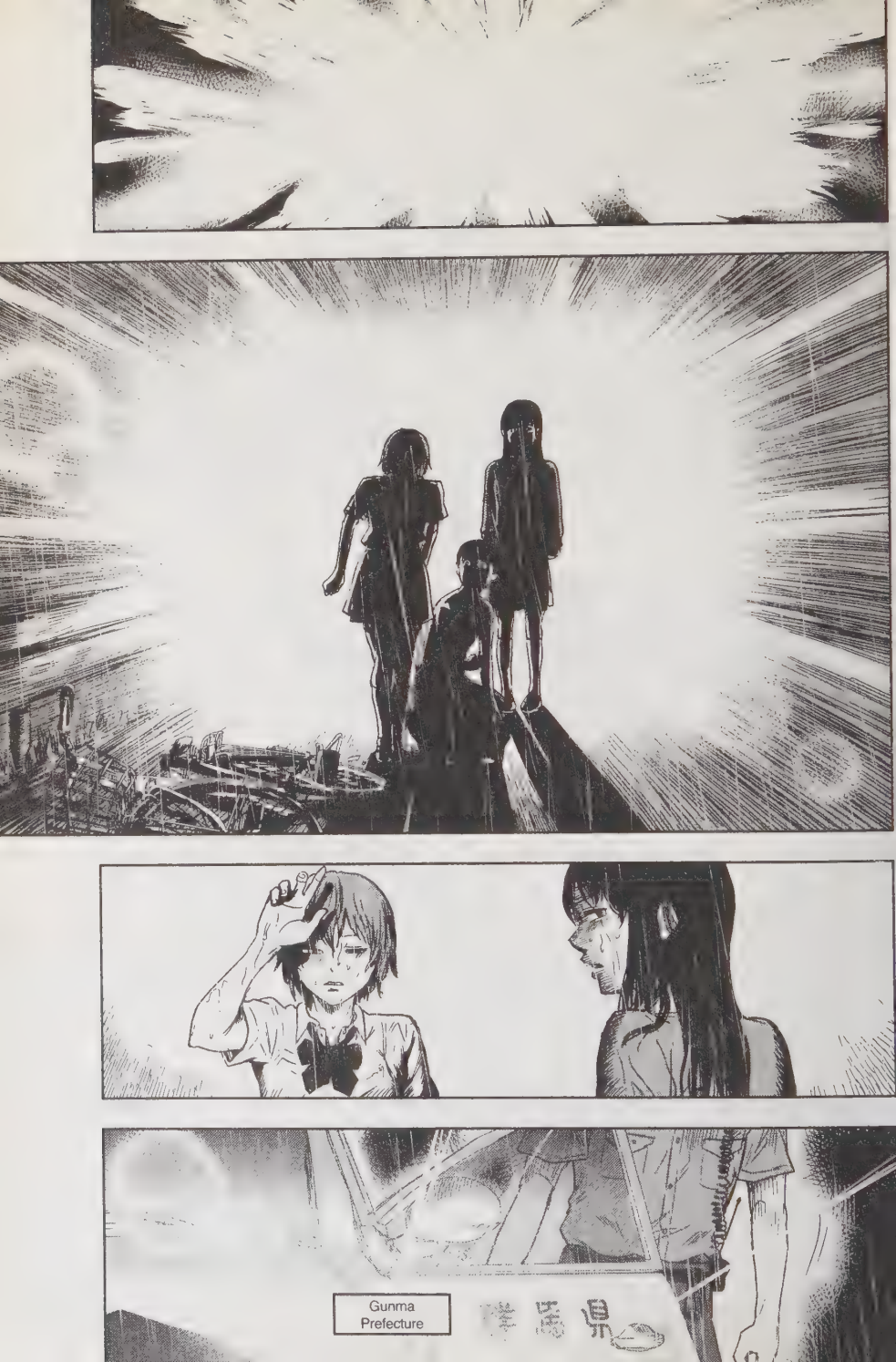

SPLAT

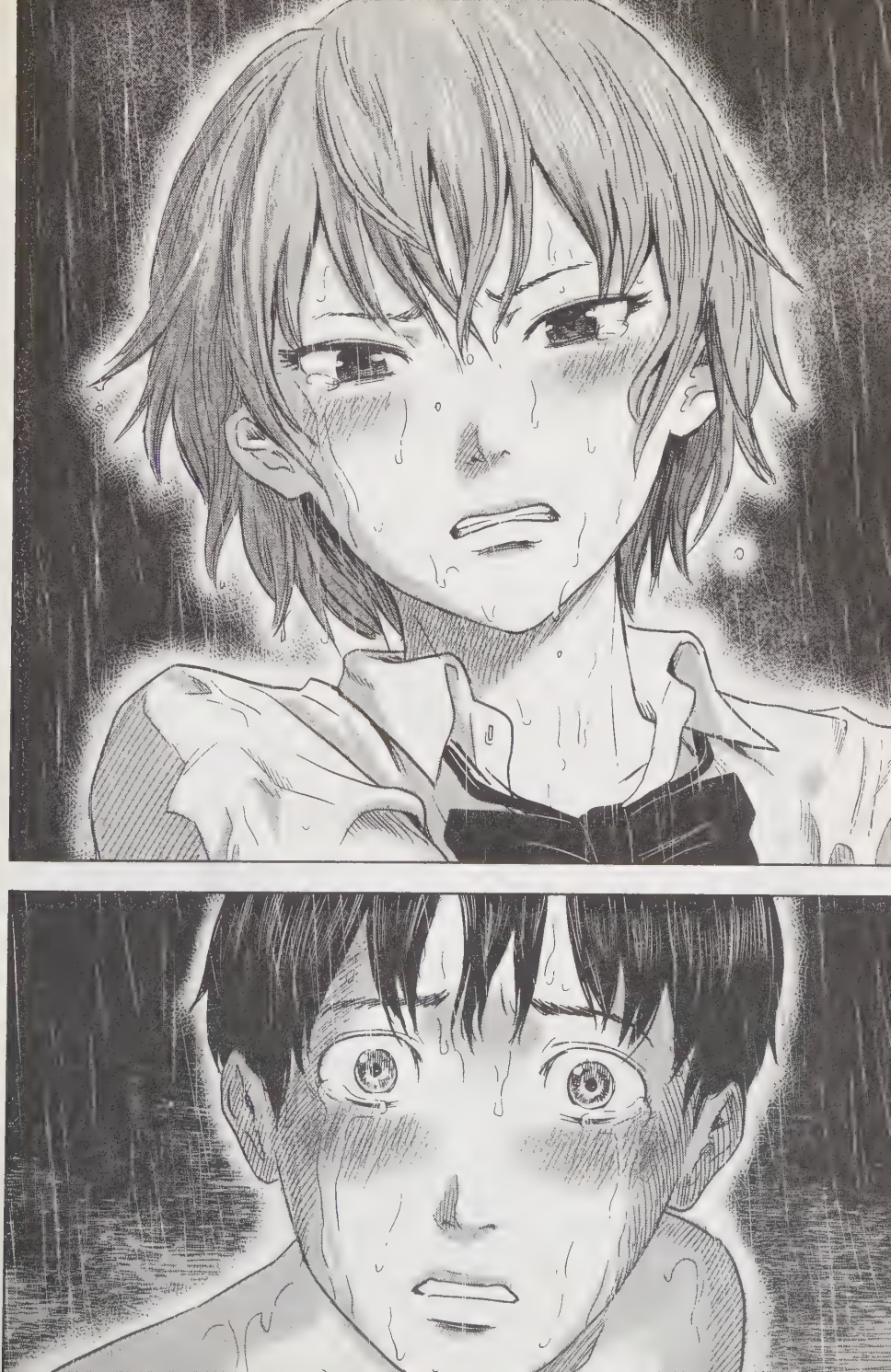



THE FLOWERS OF EVIL

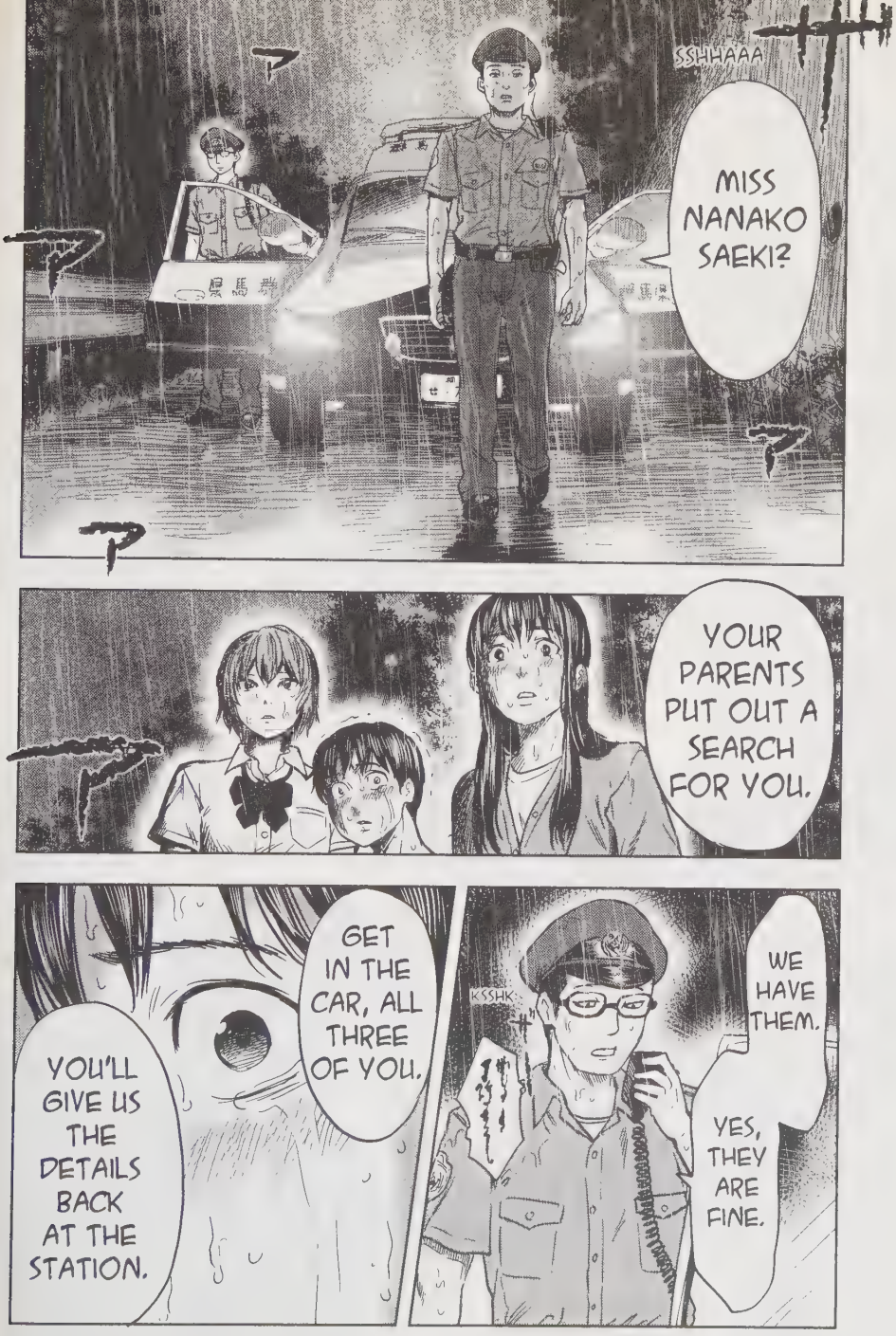
GRAB
RIP
RIP
RIP
SMAKK
THE FLOWERS OF

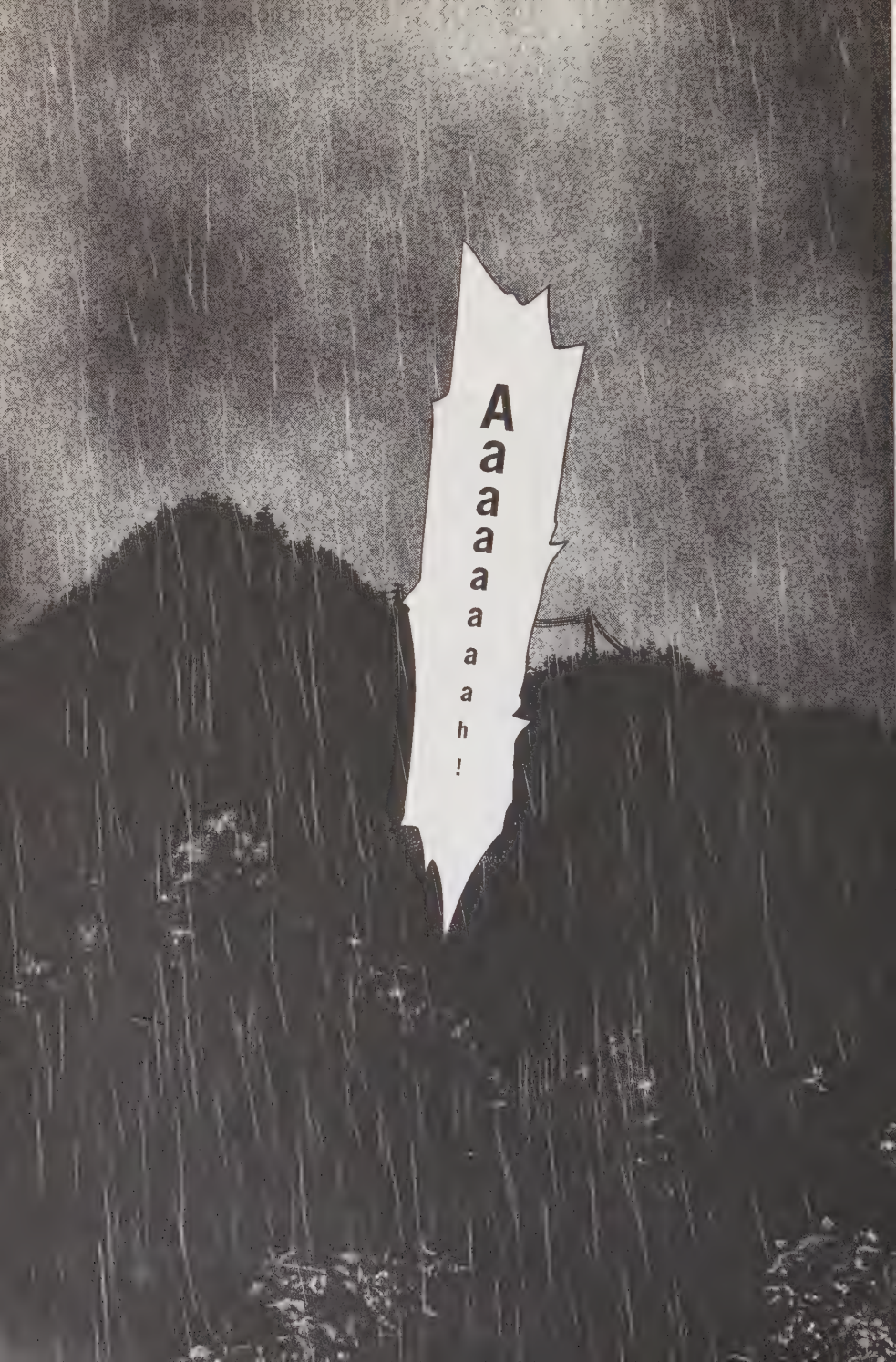

SQUASH
ちゃ
SQUISH
SQUISH


Gunma
Prefecture

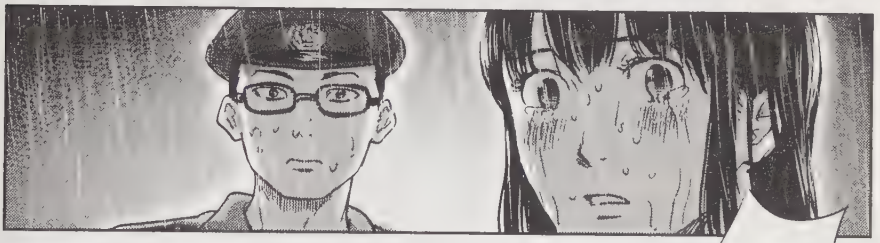


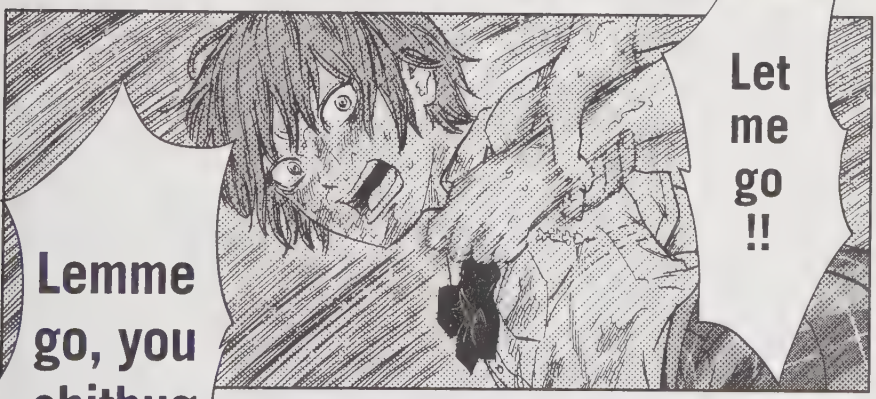
WHIP
DASH
HEY!
STOP RIGHT THERE !!

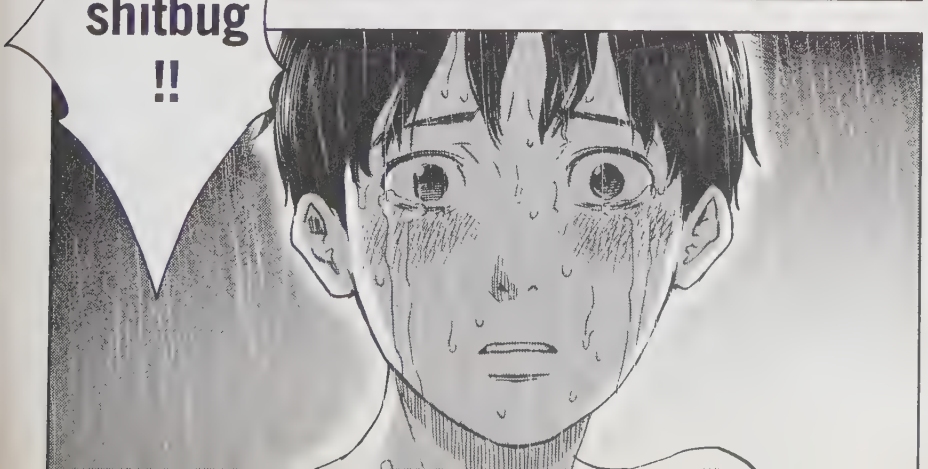

SSHHAAA
MISS NANAKO SAEKI?
YOUR PARENTS PUT OUT A SEARCH FOR YOU.
GET IN THE CAR, ALL THREE OF YOU.
YOU'LL GIVE US THE DETAILS BACK AT THE STATION.
KSSHK
WE HAVE THEM.
YES, THEY ARE FINE.


Aaaaaaaaah!

AH!
SPLISH

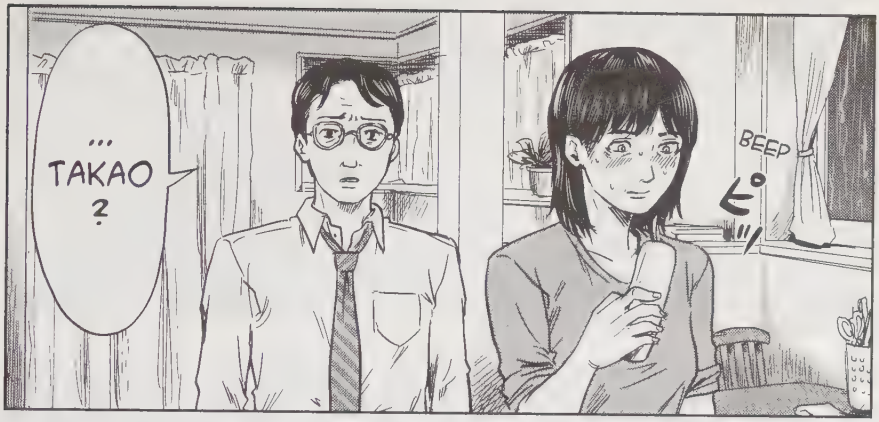


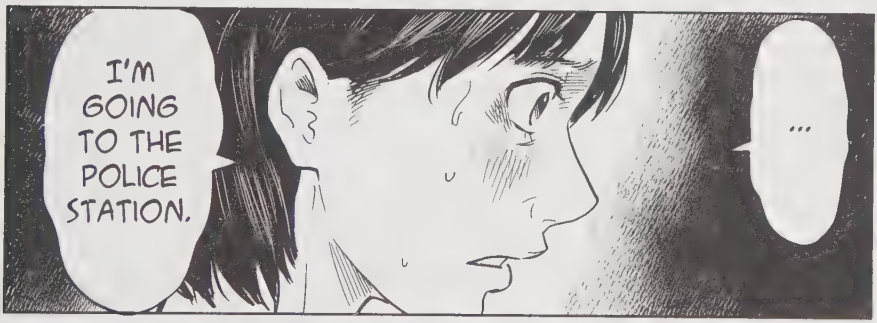

Let me go !!

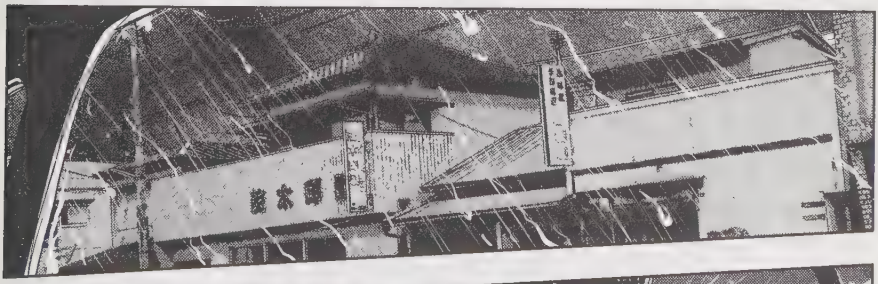

Lemme go, you shitbug !!

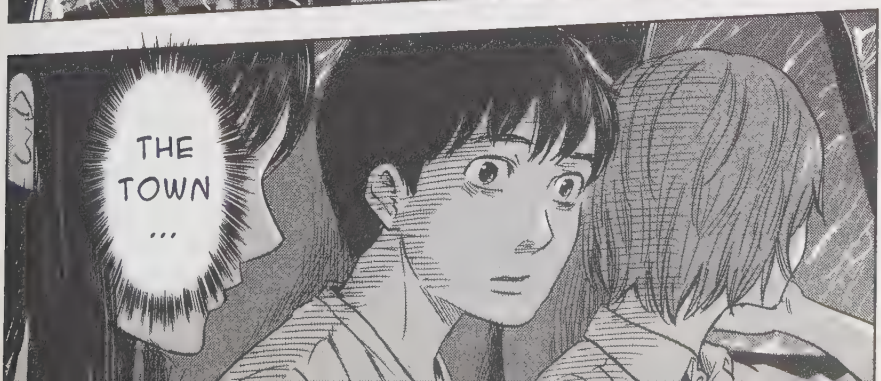
RIGHT AWAY!! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!! I'M SO SORRY!!
ペコペコ
BOW
YES.
I'M SO SORRY FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE ...

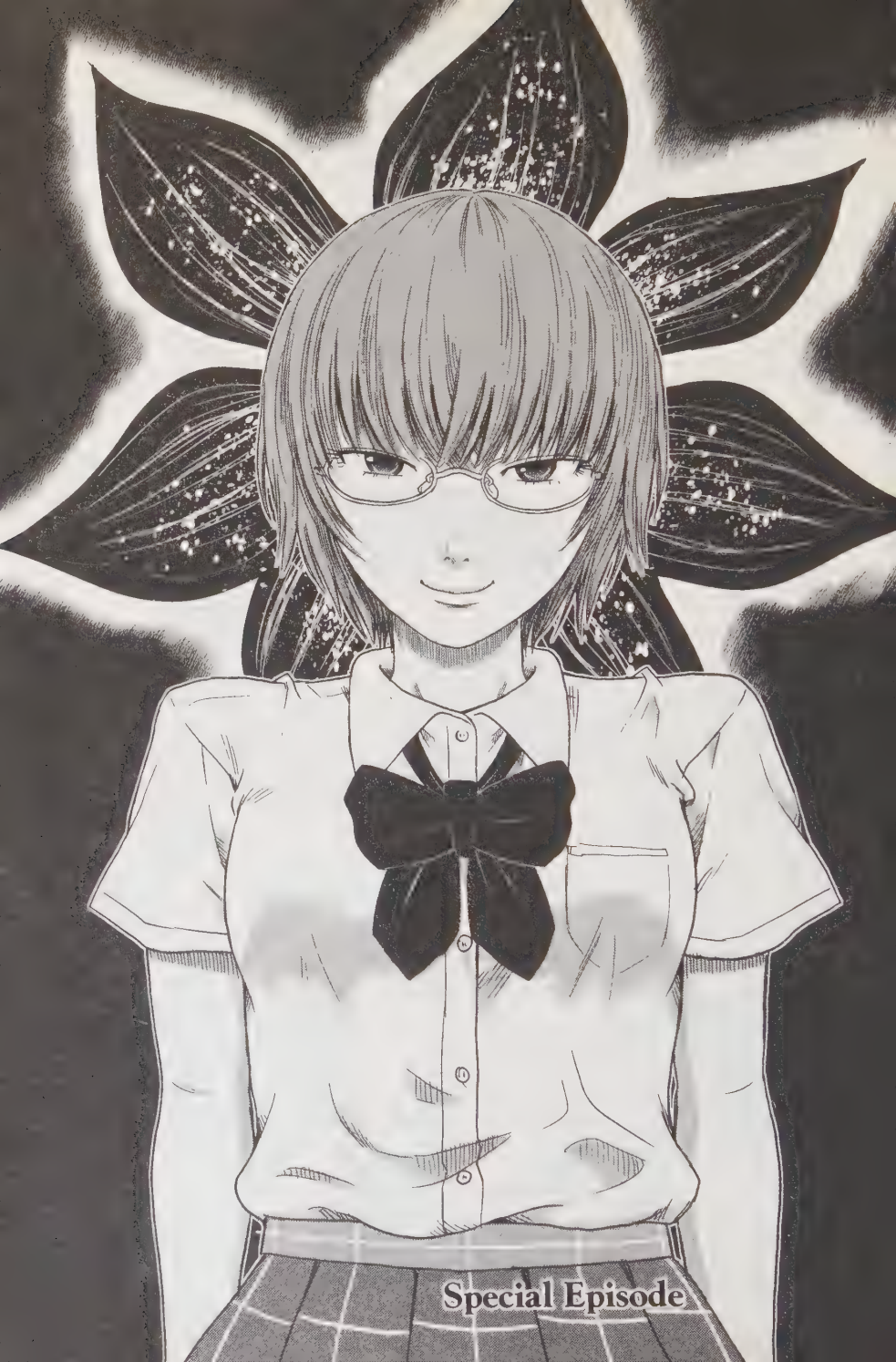
Continued in Part 2


...
TAKAO
?
BEEP


I'M GOING TO THE POLICE STATION.
...




THE TOWN
...


Special Episode

Afterword ⑤

When does adolescence end, I wonder?

I think "adolescence" covers that dark period between being an unthinking grade school kid and "adulthood," when you've gained discernment and slipped the chains of self-consciousness.

The beginning of adolescence is easy to mark. Secondary sex characteristics start to develop—things like a lowered voice, the beginning of a girl's menstrual cycle, and the growth of pubic hair. These physical changes directly alter self-consciousness.

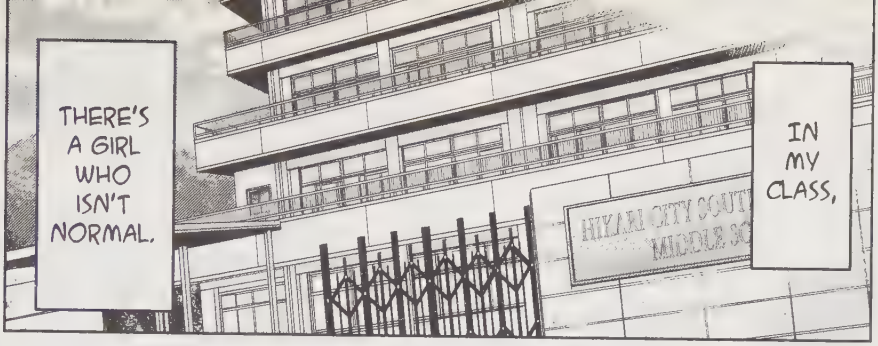
But the end is harder to see. There are many people who reach middle age, begin balding, and get wrinkles and gray hair who retain the self-consciousness of adolescence.

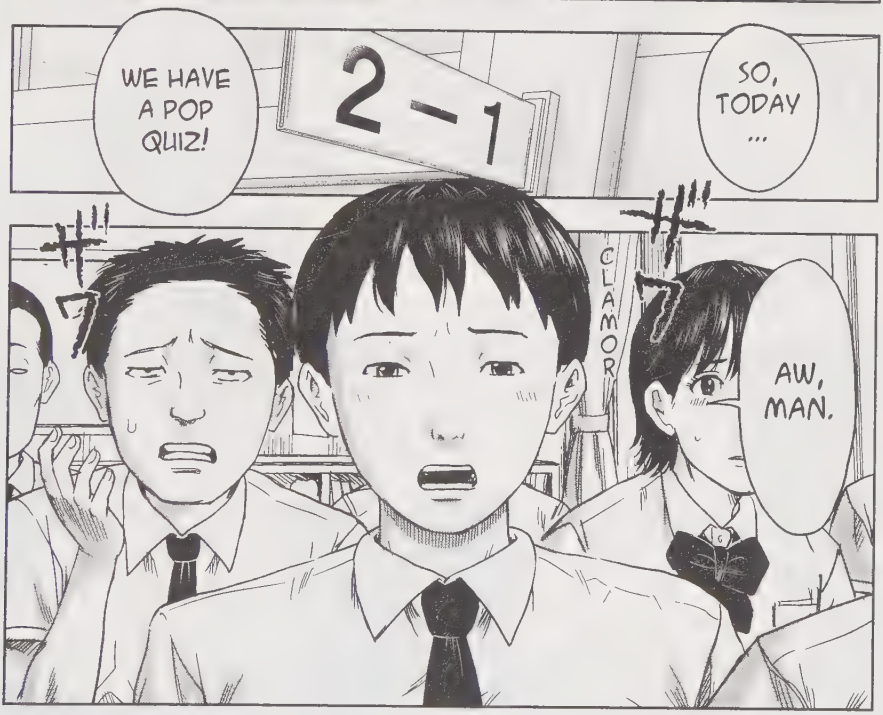
The onset hits you whether you like it or not, but the end doesn't come to you of its own accord.

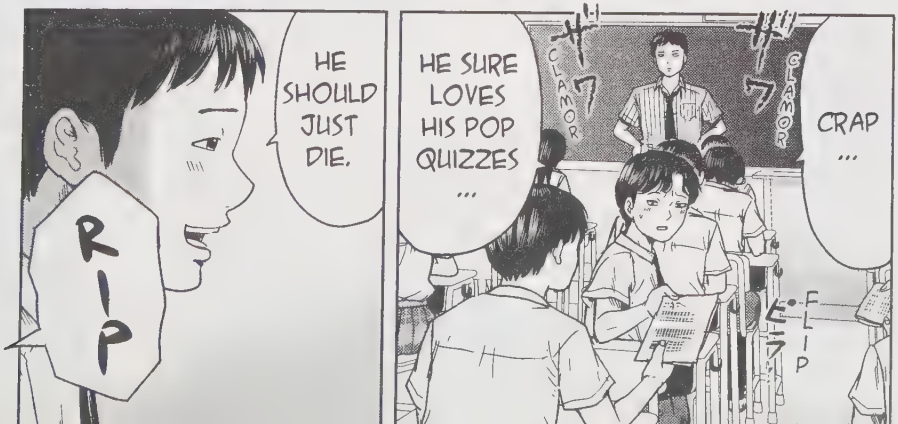
That's because it's something you have to find for yourself.

This comic, too, is about somehow discovering "adolescence's end."

ビリッ
RIP
ビリッ
RIP
ドカ
STOMP
ドカ
STOMP
Naka-
mura!
What
are
you
up to
now?!

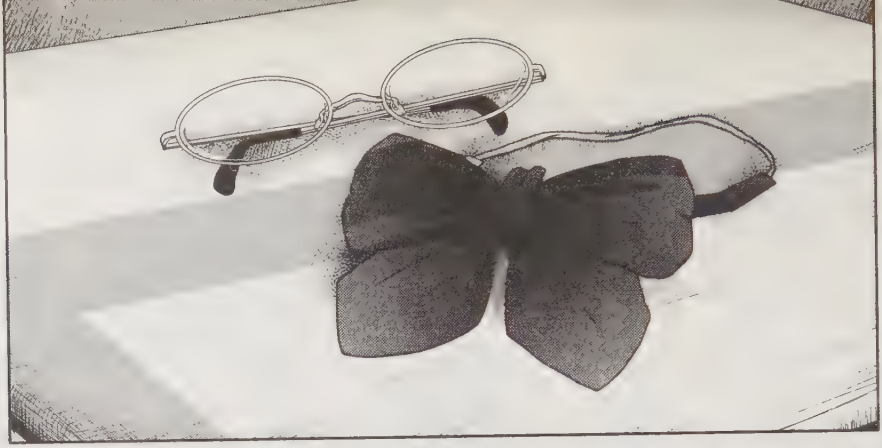

THERE'S A GIRL WHO ISN'T NORMAL.
IN MY CLASS,

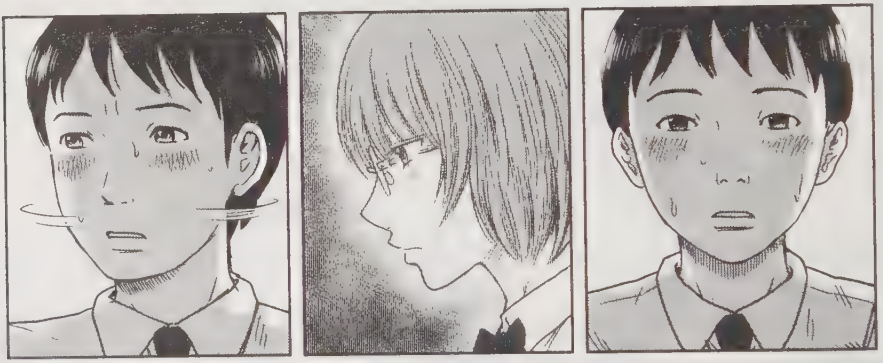

WE HAVE A POP QUIZ!
2-1
SO, TODAY ...
CLAMOR
AW, MAN.

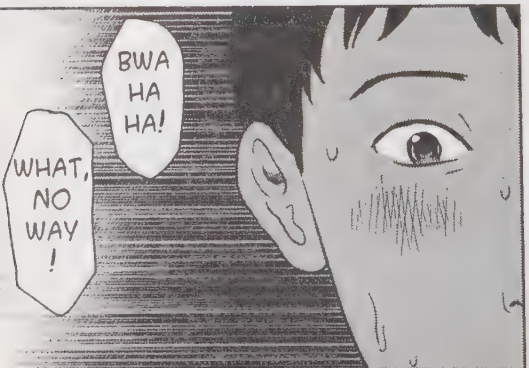

HE SHOULD JUST DIE.
RIP
HE SURE LOVES HIS POP QUIZZES ...
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CRAP ...
FLIP

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S THINKING?
SHE SURE ISN'T NORMAL...
YEAH...
SO, WHERE D'YOU WANNA PLAY MONSTER HUNTER TODAY?
OH, RIGHT, UH...
She just bugs me!
Who cares?!
FORGOT THE HOMEWORK HANDOUT.
CRAP, I...
OOPS!
HM?
WHUH? WE'RE GOIN' ON AHEAD!
LEMME JUST RUN AND GET IT!
C'MON, WHO CARES?

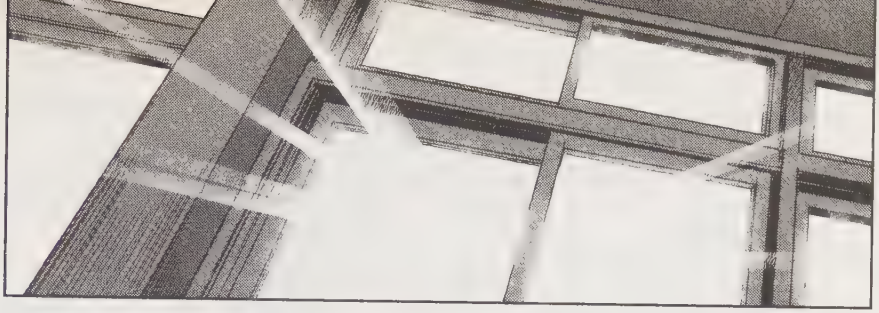
YOU SHIT-BUG.
SHUT UP
...
WHISPER
COME TO THE OFFICE AFTER CLASS!
WHISPER
HNG
...
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
DING DOONG
HEY
...
THERE'S SERIOUSLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER!
NAKA-MURA, MAN.
HM?

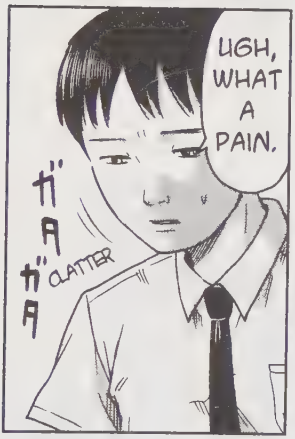


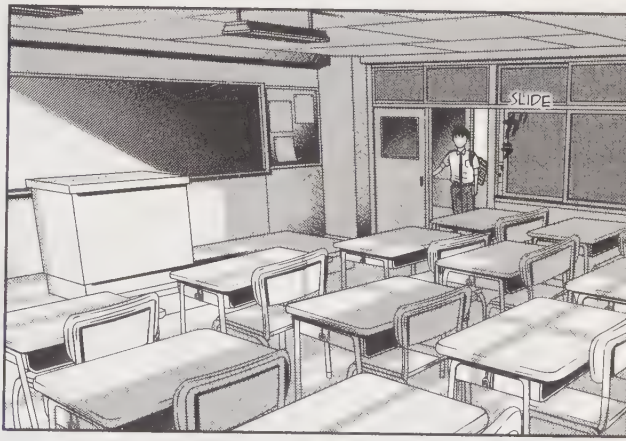


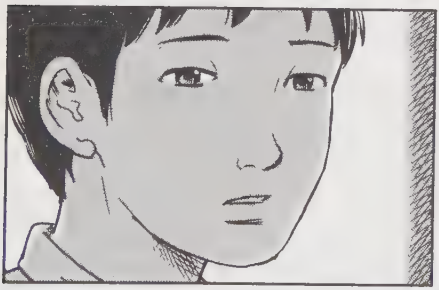

BWA HA HA!
WHAT, NO WAY!

NAKA-MURA'S?
NA...

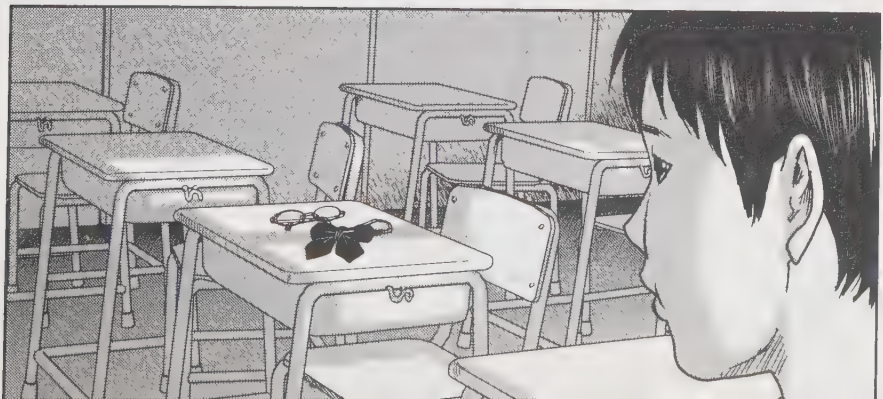


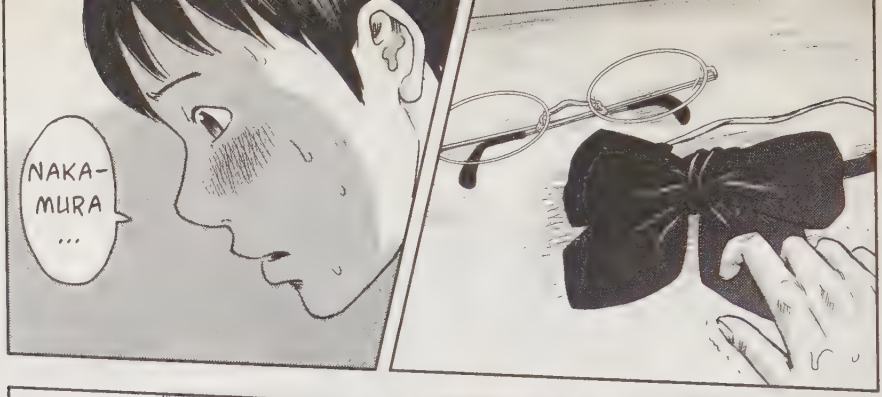

UGH, WHAT A PAIN.
ガタガタ
CLATTER

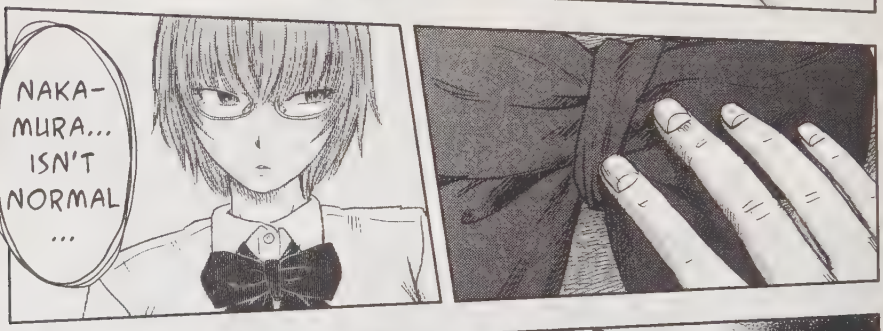

SLIDE

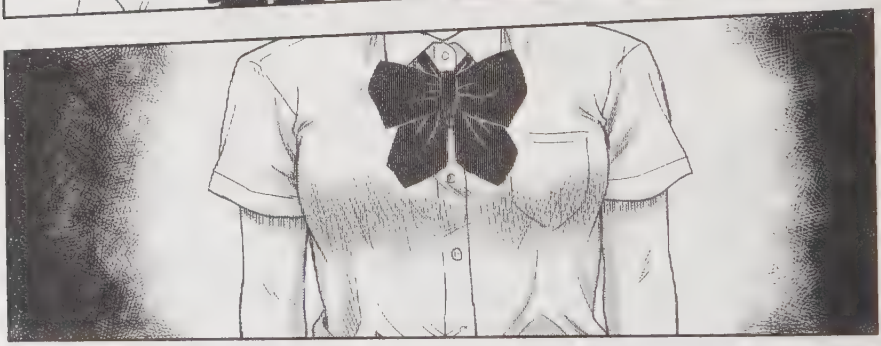


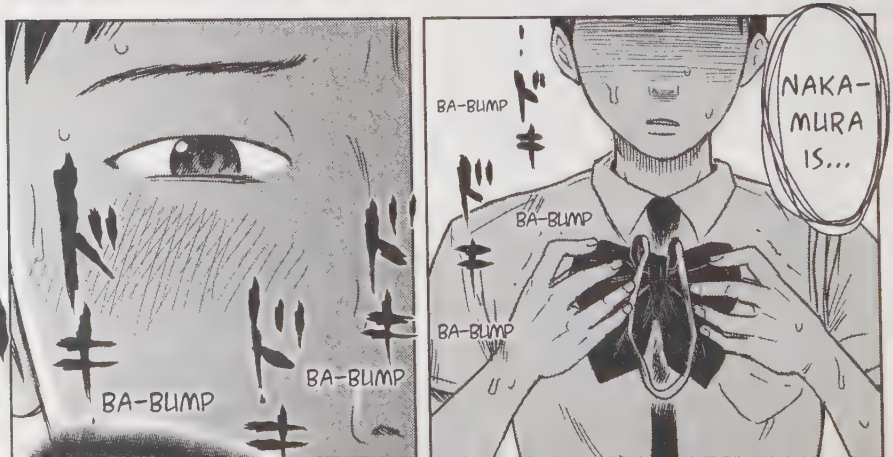
HERE IT IS!

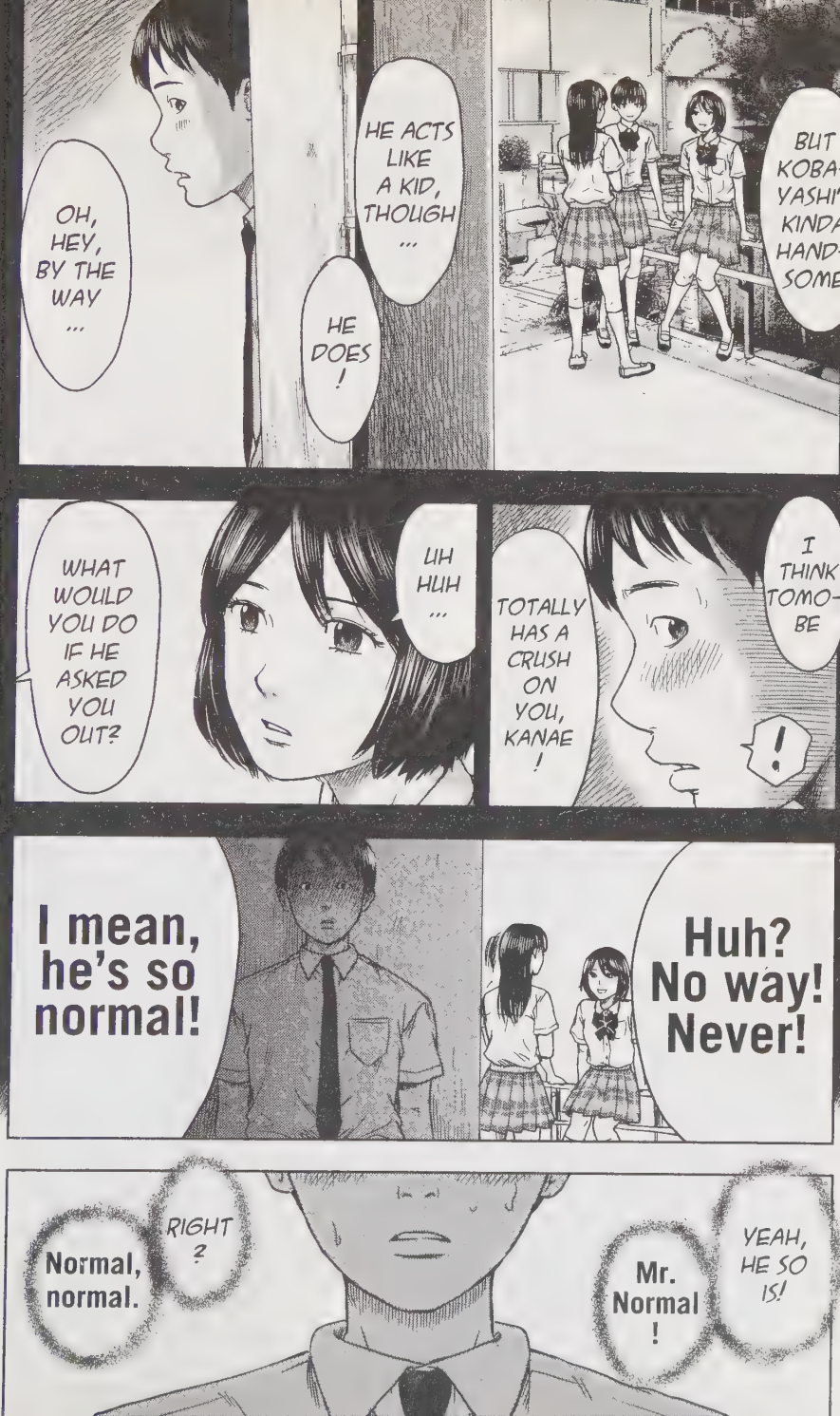



NAKA-
MURA
...

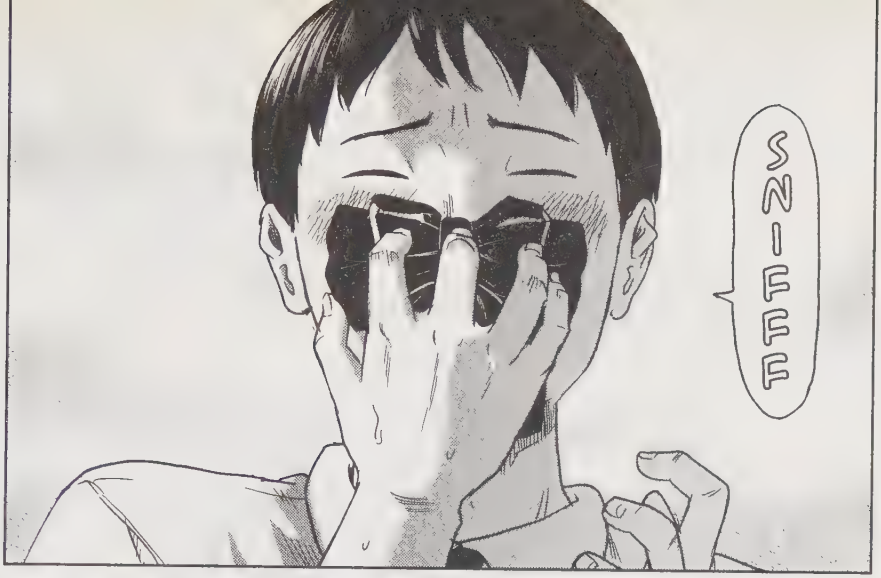

NAKA-
MURA...
ISN'T
NORMAL
...

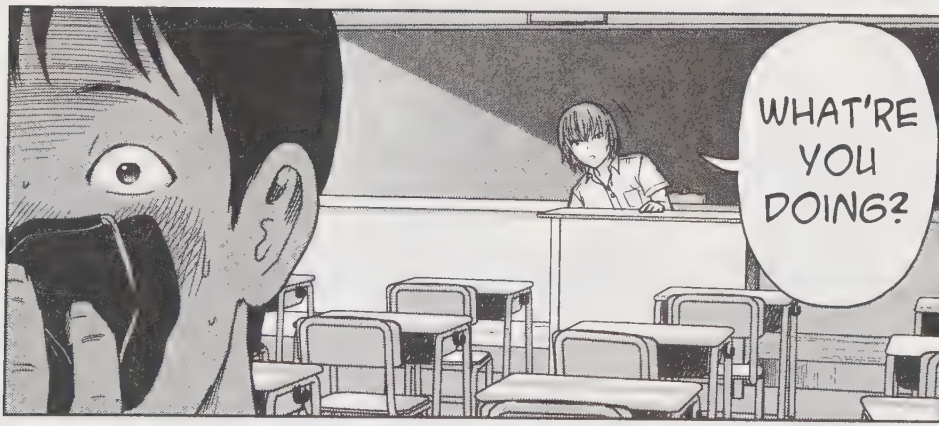


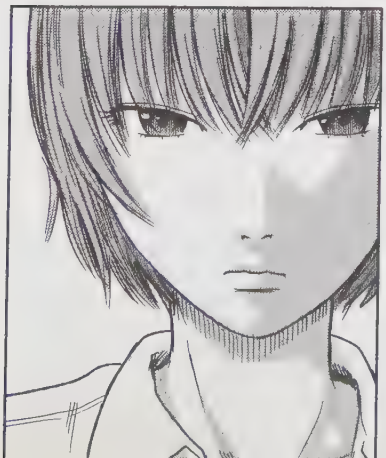

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
NAKA-
MURA
IS...

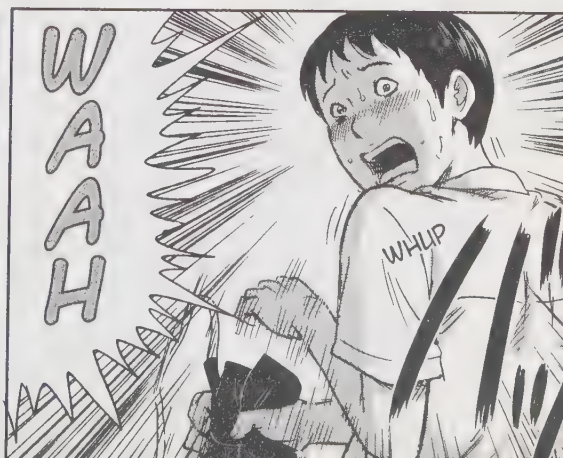

BUT KOBAYASHI'S KINDA HANDSOME.
HE ACTS LIKE A KID, THOUGH ...
HE DOES!
OH, HEY, BY THE WAY ...
I THINK TOMOBE
!
TOTALLY HAS A CRUSH ON YOU, KANAE!
UH HUH ...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF HE ASKED YOU OUT?
Huh? No way! Never!
I mean, he's so normal!
YEAH, HE SO IS!
Mr. Normal!
RIGHT?
Normal, normal.

N-NAKAMURA...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU ...
AND WHAT ...
I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME
JUST RELAXING IN THIS THING.
WHA ...
BA-BUMP ドクン
BA-BUMP ドク
TUP
FLINCH
TUP
TUP
TUP


SNIFF

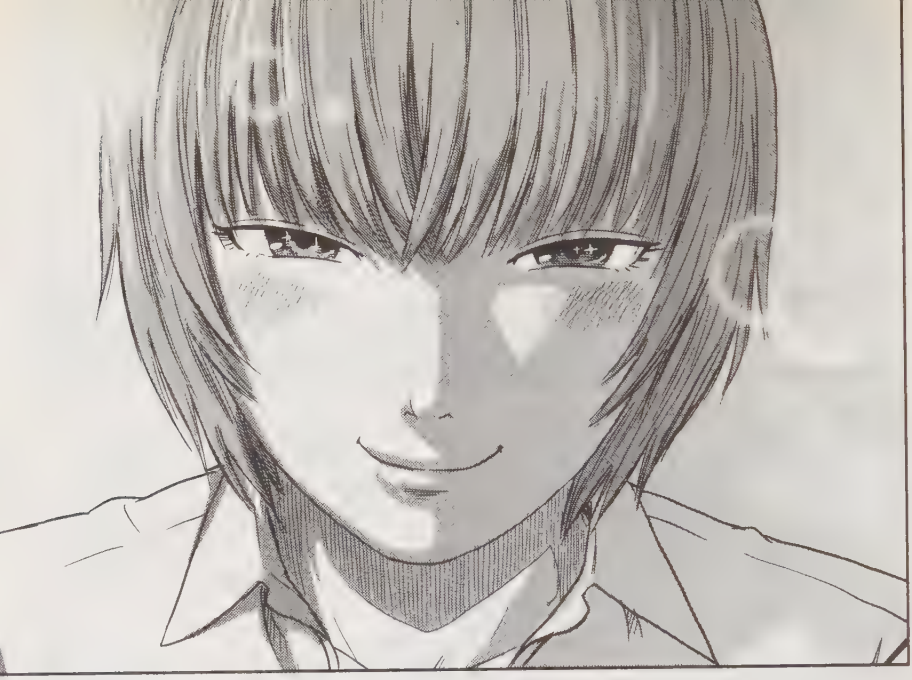

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

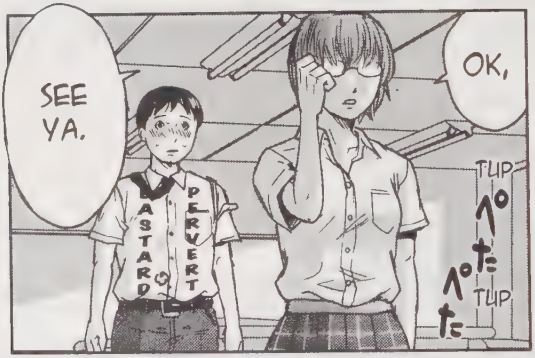



WAAH
WHUP

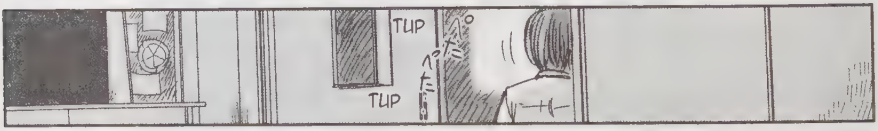
IT SMELLED GOOD ...
GOOD ...
...
G-
!
RUSTLE ガサ
RUSTLE ガサ
W-
WHAT ARE YOU ...
KA-POP キュポッ
Don't move.

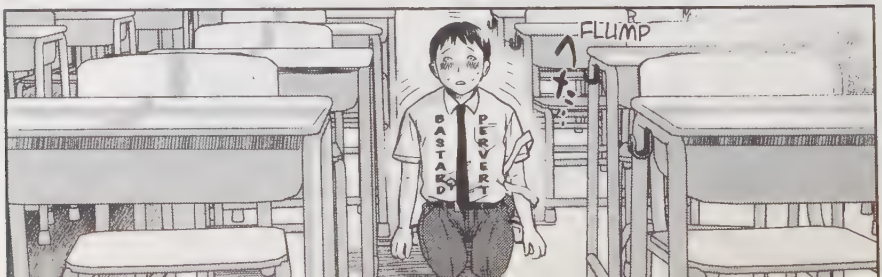
NO ...
I WASN'T ...
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
WHAT DID IT SMELL LIKE?
GRIP
ぎゅ
ドド
BA-BUMP
SO, WHAT'D IT SMELL LIKE?
YOU SNIFFED IT JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?




SEE YA.
OK,
TUP
ペた
ペた
TUP
BASTARD
PERVERT

TIK
カチャ

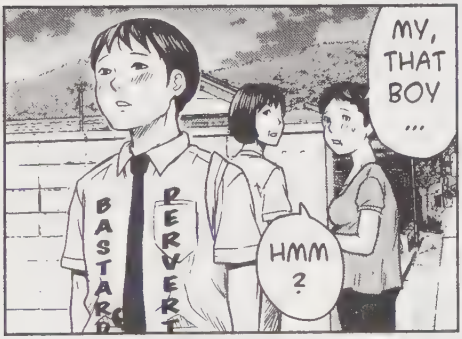

TUP
ペた
ペた
TUP

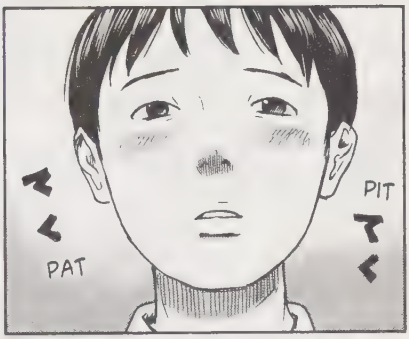

FLUMP
ペた
BASTARD
PERVERT

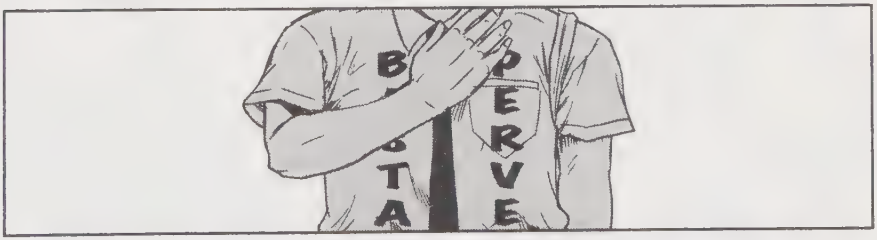
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
POKE
Mr. Mckoo
HEY ...
YANK
SHF
BASTARD
PERVERT

The Flowers of Evil

WHEN I WENT OUTSIDE, THE SUNSET WAS AMAZING.

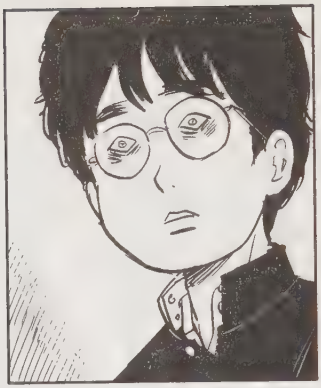

MY, THAT BOY ...
HMM ?
PERVERT

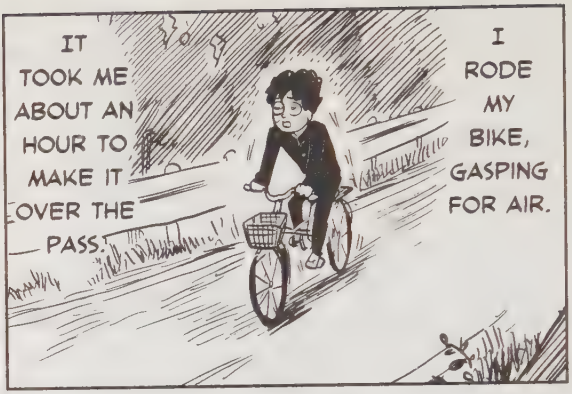

PIT
PAT

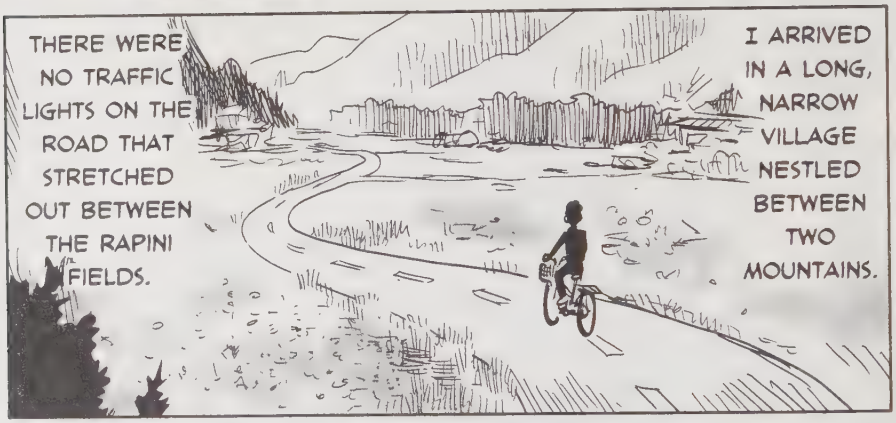

PERVE

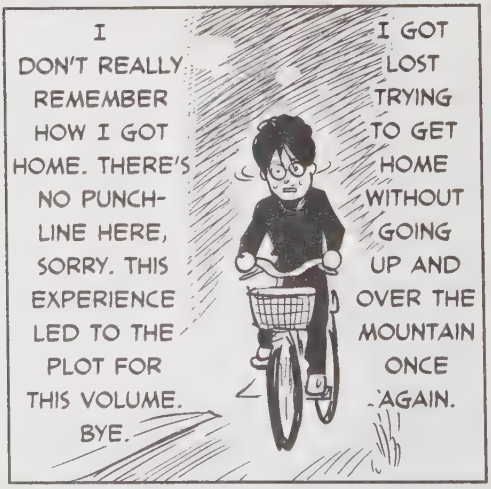
TO BECOME A BIT LESS NORMAL.
I FELT LIKE I'D BEEN ABLE

The End

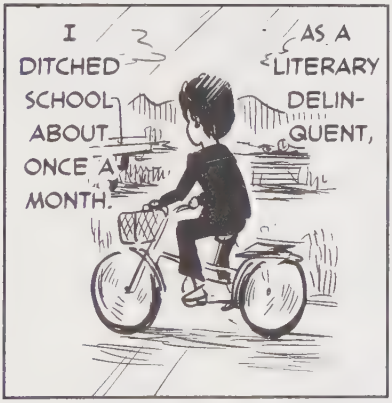


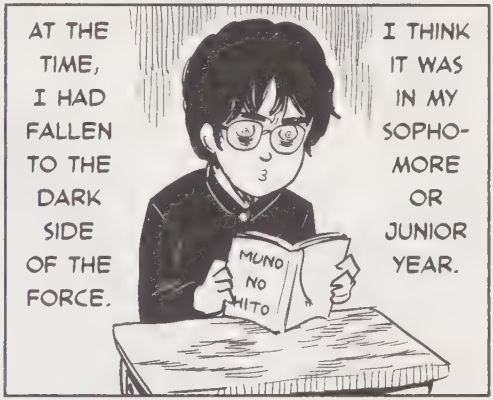

IT TOOK ME ABOUT AN HOUR TO MAKE IT OVER THE PASS.
I RODE MY BIKE, GASPING FOR AIR.


THERE WERE NO TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON THE ROAD THAT STRETCHED OUT BETWEEN THE RAPINI FIELDS.
I ARRIVED IN A LONG, NARROW VILLAGE NESTLED BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAINS.

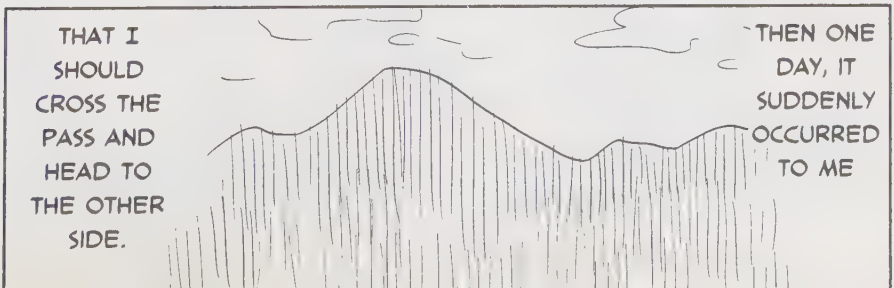

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER HOW I GOT HOME. THERE'S NO PUNCH-LINE HERE, SORRY. THIS EXPERIENCE LED TO THE PLOT FOR THIS VOLUME. BYE.
I GOT LOST TRYING TO GET HOME WITHOUT GOING UP AND OVER THE MOUNTAIN ONCE AGAIN.

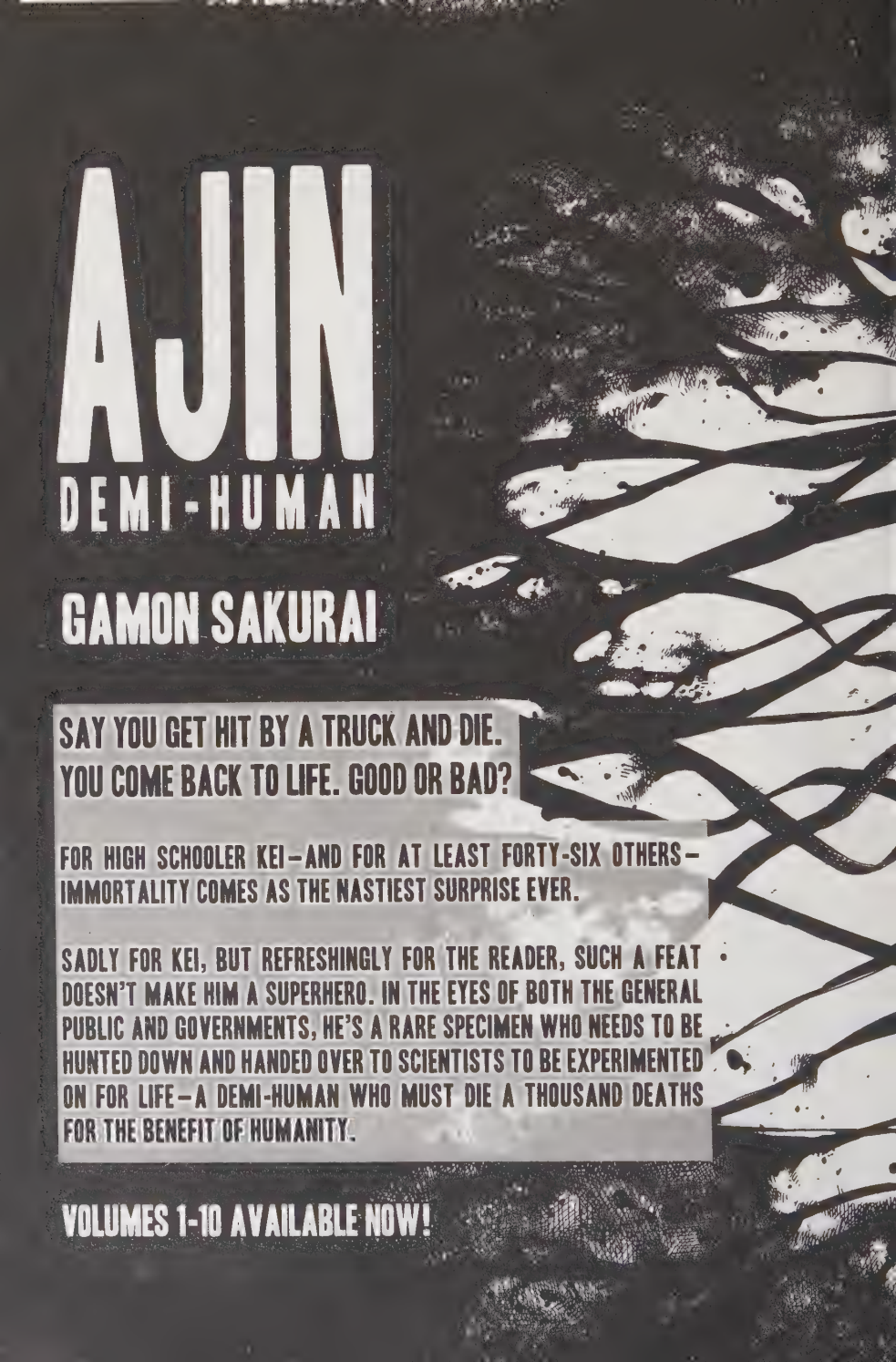
I DID THE SAME THING IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IN THIS VOLUME, KASUGA AND NAKAMURA HEAD FOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.
THANK YOU FOR READING FLOWERS OF EVIL VOLUME 3.


I DITCHED SCHOOL ABOUT ONCE A MONTH.
AS A LITERARY DELIN-QUENT,


AT THE TIME, I HAD FALLEN TO THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE.
I THINK IT WAS IN MY SOPHO-MORE OR JUNIOR YEAR.
MUNO NO HITO

I'D CLIMB THE LOCAL MOUNTAIN (WELL, HILL) AND EAT MY LUNCH OR TAKE A NAP.
BUT WITHOUT ANYWHERE TO GO,


THAT I SHOULD CROSS THE PASS AND HEAD TO THE OTHER SIDE.
THEN ONE DAY, IT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME


AJIN
DEMI-HUMAN
GAMON SAKURAI
SAY YOU GET HIT BY A TRUCK AND DIE. YOU COME BACK TO LIFE. GOOD OR BAD?
FOR HIGH SCHOOLER KEI—AND FOR AT LEAST FORTY-SIX OTHERS—IMMORTALITY COMES AS THE NASTIEST SURPRISE EVER.
SADLY FOR KEI, BUT REFRESHINGLY FOR THE READER, SUCH A FEAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A SUPERHERO. IN THE EYES OF BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTS, HE'S A RARE SPECIMEN WHO NEEDS TO BE HUNTED DOWN AND HANDED OVER TO SCIENTISTS TO BE EXPERIMENTED ON FOR LIFE—A DEMI-HUMAN WHO MUST DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY.
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Retold by Mitsuru Hattori

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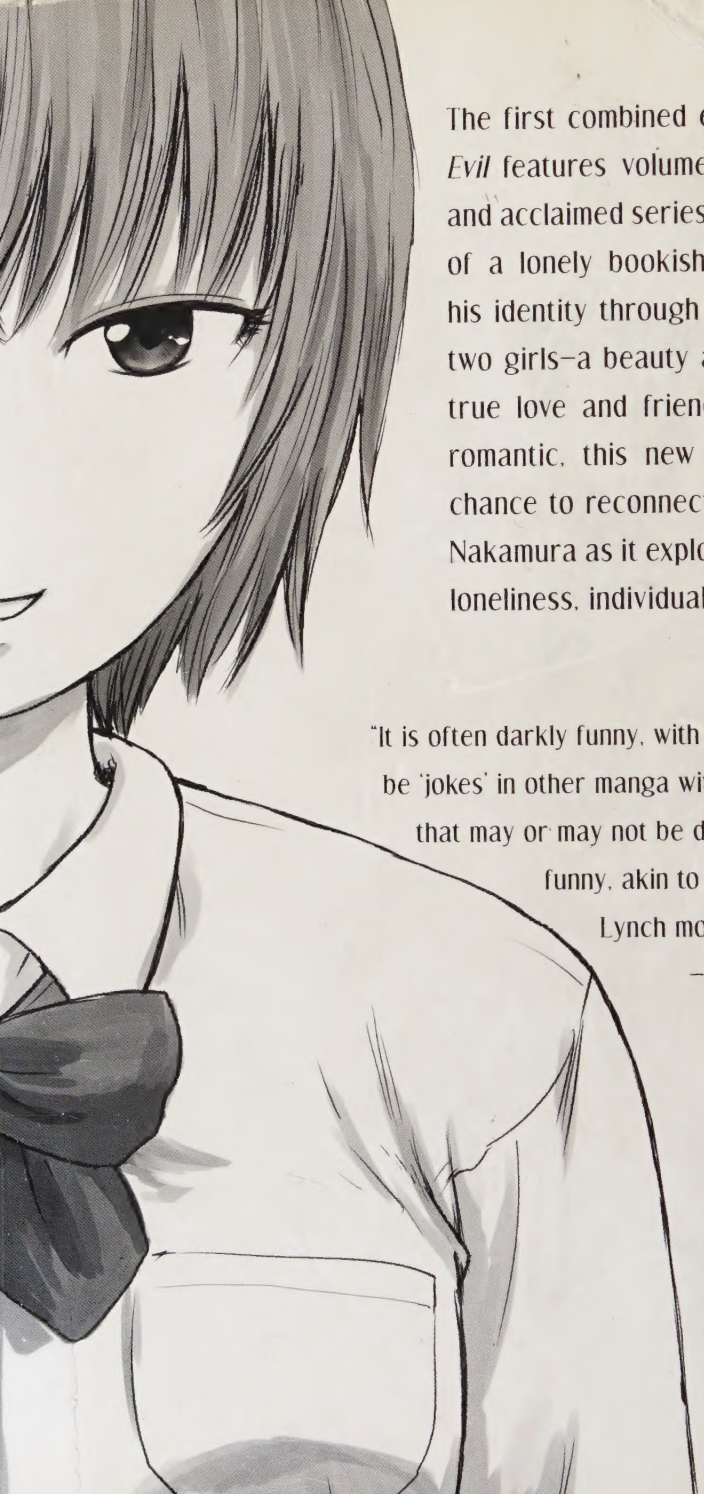

The first combined edition of *The Flowers of Evil* features volumes 1-3 of this best-selling and acclaimed series. It follows the adventures of a lonely bookish teen struggling to find his identity through Baudelaire's poetry, until two girls—a beauty and a bully—help him find true love and friendship. Edgy, intense, and romantic, this new edition will give fans a chance to reconnect with Kasuga, Saeki, and Nakamura as it explores the issues of bullying, loneliness, individuality, and identity.

"It is often darkly funny, with Oshimi delivering what would be 'jokes' in other manga with a straightforward sincerity that may or may not be deadpan. It's an uncomfortable funny, akin to the funny parts in, say, David Lynch movies."

—*Every Day Is Like Wednesday*

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